

OUR TOWN

THE STORY OF MASKA With Ghabeh & Kherbet

Volume 1: Maska & Kherbet

Sam S. Abujawdeh
NJ, 2015



IN THE SHADE OF MAR TAQLA

“E PLURIBUS UNUM”

DEDICATED TO MY CHILDREN,

MINERVA, SAMMY, SANDRA AND

JENNIFER,

WHO CONTINUE MY

STORY



Ninth Edition – Colonia, New Jersey 2015

© Sam S. Abujawdeh

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	9
Prologue	10
Acknowledgements	11
THE STORY OF MASKA	12
Kherbat el Adas, Maska, and Al Ghabeh	15
Maska & Ghabeh in Antiquity	31
Maska Families	39
Village Album	41
Fadlallah Ibrahim & Adele Naufal's Family	43
Sami Fadlallah & Minerva Khattar's Family	54
Hafiz Fadlallah's Crew	67
Beit Pierre Hafiz	71
Henry Fadlallah's Crew	73
Beit Fadlallah Henry	80
Linda Fadlallah's Crew	85
Nadia Fadlallah's Family	92
Nuhad Fadlallah's Crew	100
Fares Butros Ibrahim's Family	108
Khattar Naufal's Family	113
Rachidi's Clan	114
Alice's Clan	117
Renee's Clan	120
Assad Khattar & Family	123
Abdo Sleiman & Laurice Khattar's Family	133
Tony Abdo Sleiman (el Harf)	138
Beit Joseph Abdo Sleiman	140
Sleiman Abdo Sleiman Family	143
Beit Amin Salim Naufal	145
Beit Fawzi Amin	147
Beit Raymond Amin	153
Beit Ne'emtallah	156
Emile Youssef Semaan & Siham Fadlallah's Family	158
Beit Raymond Emile	166

Beit Tony Emile	169
Beit Richard Emile	175
Beit Roland Emile	179
Semaan Youssef Semaan	181
Beit Salim Semaan	184
Beit Charbel Semaan	187
Beit Edward Semaan	191
Beit Adeeb Youssef Semaan	194
Beit Pierre Adib	197
Beit Joseph Adib	198
Beit Karim Youssef Semaan	200
Beit Maurice Youssef Semaan	204
Beit Antoinette Youssef Semaam – Maroun	208
Beit Nassif	210
Beit Anis Nassif	215
Beit Butros Toubia	222
Beit Fouad Boutros Toubia	225
Farid Butros Toubia & Angel’s Family	226
Beit Elie Farid	233
Beit Kamal Farid	236
Beit Jaoude Farid	238
Beit Khalil Farid	240
Beit Therese Farid	242
Beit Badih Butros Toubia	243
Beit Munir Butros Toubia	246
Aunt Najla & Michel Abu Fadel’s Family	249
Beit Jihad Michel	253
Beit Abdallah Michel	256
Beit Nadim Mazloun	260
Beit Bishara Sassine & Emily Khoury	262
Beit Elie Bishara	267
Beit Robert Bishara	270
Beit Roger Bishara	272
Beit Eddie Bishara	274
Beit Nassib	276

Beit Fares Yousef Fares	280
Beit Asaad Ghawi	283
Beit Edmond Youssef Amin	285
Beit Youssef Bishara	286
Beit Elie Yousef Bishara	287
Elias Naoum's Family	288
Beit Kamal Elias Naoum.....	290
Beit Riad Elias Naoum	294
Beit Tony Elias Naoum	296
Beit Suhail Elias Naoum.....	298
Beit Naoum Elias Naoum	300
Beit Yousef Fares & Elaine	304
The “Herhs” (Mikhail & Nazih FAHID’s Families)	309
Beit Nazih	310
Beit Mikhail.....	312
Beit Deeb Semaan	317
Beit Hafiz Deeb	319
Beit Albert Deeb.....	323
Beit Fouad Fares	327
Beit Louis Malek (Bhala)	333
Beit Milad & Majid Ghosn	336
Beit Nahi Milad Ghosn	337
Beit Romanos	340
Beit Abdallah Romanos	348
Beit Marcellino Romanos	351
Beit Paul Romanos	353
Beit Youssef Hanna	354
Beit Hanna Youssef Hanna	354
Beit Albert Youssef Hanna.....	356
Beit Emile Youssef Hanna.....	360
Beit William Toufic Youssef Hanna	363
Beit Charbel Toufic Youssef Hanna.....	368
Beit Michel Youssef Hanna	370
Beit Youssef Maroun	372
Beit Jean Youssef Maroun.....	376

Beit Joseph Maroun	379
Beit Roufail Maroun.....	381
Beit Amin & Geryes Elias Amin	386
Beit Elie Amin.....	390
Beit Gabi Amin	392
Beit Abdo Rustum	393
Beit Eid Mansour	397
Beit Rustum Makhoul	402
Beit Nabih Rustum	404
Beit Jamil Rustum.....	406
Beit Rustum Edward Rustum Makhoul	408
Beit Makhoul Rustum Makhoul	409
Beit Ayyoub	414
Beit Nadim	418
Beit Kamil Makhoul	420
Beit Israel Chaymouni	428
Beit Rashid Abdallah	434
Beit Sha'aya Sassine	436
Beit Edmond Ghaleb.....	440
Maska Guests	444
Events	446
Village Scenes.....	464
Maska Church Square.....	485
El Jaras (Church Bell)	494
Madrasset (Village School).....	498
Saydet El Karm (Lady of the Vines)	500
Al Ain.....	503
The Views of Haqlet el Snowbra	506
El Harf.....	517
Fadlallah Ibrahim's House - Grandfather and Grandson	522
Mala'ab (Court)	524
Hayy el Tahta (Lower Maska)	528
Tareeq el Oyoun	531
Kherbet.....	533
Maska in Snow	535

Mar Takla	536
Church Life	544
Fersan & Akhawiyet.....	552
Zeyyah El Adra	561
Choir	567
First Communions.....	571
Baptisms	585
Good Friday (Jem3a'at el 3azimi)	589
Easter & Sha'anini (Palm Sunday).....	597
Christmas	600
St Taqla Festival – Sept 24.....	606
Church History.....	616
Epilogue	628
SUGGESTED READINGS & RESOURCES	629
About the Author	630



PREFACE



First and foremost, my father, Salim (Sam) Abujawdeh, is a family man through-out. He lives for his Family, his Townsfolks, and Aboujaoudes.

In this book, he depicts the most sincere and candid image of the town we originated from and travel to often. I am forever grateful and honored to have been part of a significant amount of his journeys – and once read, you will feel like you joined along as well.

Every family and town has a history. Our family that we see today is seasoned by ancestry, religion and culture. In the companion book (“Aboujaoudes – Origins”) my dad provides an account of the Aboujaoude family from which our clan is said to descend. In this book he comes back closer to home, the Village of Maska, to the roots.

In the end, you will culminate your readings with a more profound appreciation for your being and the memories of Old, covering the distance, trials, and milestones that it took to reach thus far. Ideally, hopefully this makes the reader more self-aware and ambitious to make his or her own mark in this world and new memories for future generations.

Sandra Abujawdeh

Colonia, NJ, June 2015

PROLOGUE

I have traveled around the world, and seen many places.

But in all my travels, and throughout the years, one string always pulled at my heart – My hometown, my roots, my little village in the beautiful Mountains of Lebanon – Maska.

This is a part of the story of Maska & Ghabeh – a snapshot. It is intended for the many Maskawites who I know share my love of our Town. With a mostly personal focus that may not interest all, and a look at the roots and origins which should interest those who like history, I also tried to intersperse anecdotes and amusing perspectives of our colorful home.

“Our Town” is a trinity, Maska, Ghabeh and Kherbeh, its unity and memories sacred like the Holy – Three in One, One for All and All for One.

The book is definitely one for family, my Children, and kin. Times are changing- we are out of our village, in a new world. The collective memory is dispersed. Documenting the last of the old ways and stories may help preserve a memory for the future, and help the grandchildren trace their roots. As Gibran Khalil Gibran, our national poet, says: “Remembrance is a form of meeting”.

The effort has been personally very rewarding. I cannot imagine any other place where such family ties, location, history and relations allow such a picture as comes out of this effort. The more I worked on our village history, the more I appreciated the value of this place I come from, and the need to preserve its memory. I hope new generations keep it that way.

Memories trickle in for the unplanned venture... Comments and ideas are sure to follow... Expect a Tenth edition 😊.

I hope you find the trip as much fun as I had sketching it.

Sam S. Abujawdeh

Colonia, NJ

June 2015

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work is a summary of experiences over a lifetime, enriched by friendships and relations that have made it interesting and made this writing worthwhile.

Thanks to Elie Bishara for being our town photographer, his site on Flickr a treasure of memories I used generously in this book. His Brother Roger encouraged the idea of this book, since I wouldn't give him a copy of our private family auto-biography ☺. Elie Farid helped with many comments and corrections, as well as the family trees. My Brother Joe, my cousins Fares Yaacoub and Fadi Naufal, Sassine Chaya, Solomon Abdo, Elie Youssef, Jean Youssef Maroun, Hafiza Henry, Jimmy Kamal, Mario Elias, Corinne Nahi, Elie Farid, Roger Bishara and many others also helped collect many of the old photographs. Victor Khoury also helped with the editing. Special thanks to Father Hanna, Bishop Nasser Gemayl, and Tony Sami Aboujaoude for their material in the Silver Jubilee Village Club magazine.

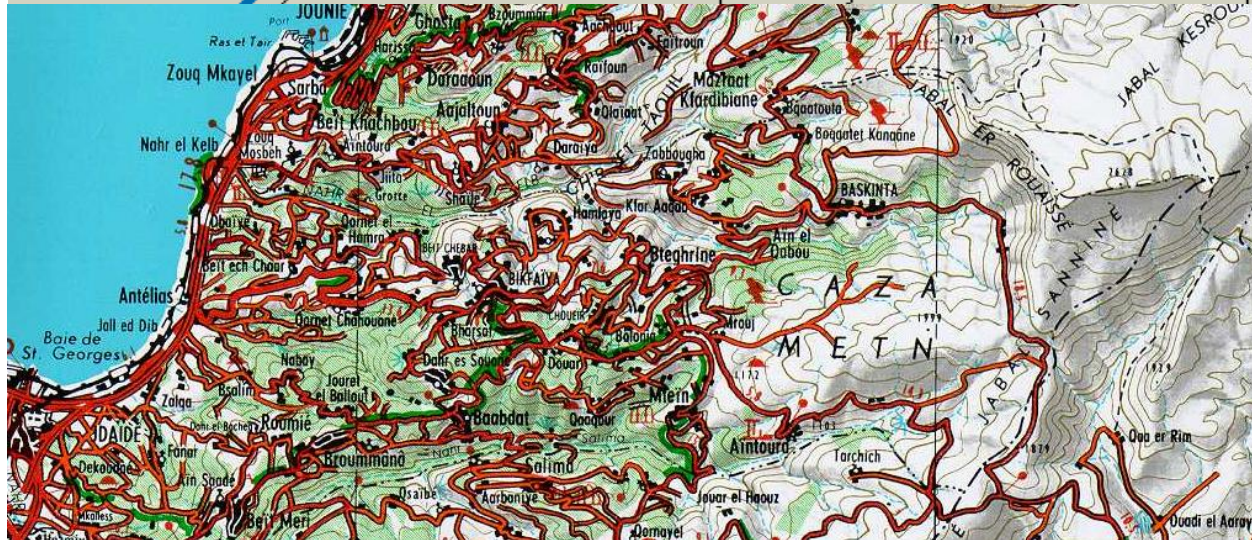
Special thanks go to my daughters Sandra, Jennifer, and Eva, and my son Sammy, who patiently read and edited most of the text, and encouraged the venture with their kind remarks. My wife kindly scanned many of the Old Photographs that decorate the volume, and her review saved me many an embarrassment ☺. Jennifer also helped design the covers.

In a work of this kind, it is hard to decide what to include and what to exclude. Limited by space, and by balance between general interest and personal bias, the advice of my family and friends proved very helpful. They also helped re-invigorate the memory of an older immigrant whose memory fails him in proportion to the time and distance, and which will probably require a new edition to correct.

Any foolishness remaining is of course my own ☺.

Copyright Acknowledgement: Many of the Pictures in this book are borrowed from public internet pages. Most are common property, but some may have copyright (often not stated). No infringement to copyright is intended, and original copyright is preserved when applicable.

The map displays the Brummana Municipality, which is shaded in orange. It is bordered by several other areas: Roumie to the west, Masqa et Ghabe to the east, and Zandouqa to the south. The Metn Express Way is shown as a yellow line running through the northern part of the municipality. Atrak Road is highlighted in green in the southern part. Other locations marked include Bsalim, Jouret el Ballout, Mar Chaaya et Mzakke, Aayoun, Knaise, Qsaibe, and Qirtada. A compass rose is located in the top left corner, and a scale bar indicating 0 to 500m is in the bottom right corner. The copyright notice '© Brummana Municipality 2004' is at the bottom left.



© SSA



المسقى

المسقى تعني وقت السقي، والمسقاة موضع السقي. هو الاسم العربي الذي أطلقه الأمراء اللمعيون عندما كانوا يقولون: "وردت الخيل إلى المسقى".

ترتفع بلدة المسقى عن سطح البحر نحو 600 متر، وتبعد عن بيروت حوالي 21 كلم.

تقع شرقي برمانا وتحدها اليوم بلدة العيون شرقاً وبلدة الغابة غرباً (انظر إلى الخارطة).

سكان المسقى الأولون زعنيون، نزحوا مع نزوح بني أعمامهم من تولا البترون إلى كسروان والقاطع وضواحي بيروت والمتنين، حوالي سنة 1660 ميلادية ونزلوا في بقعة طيبة شرق برمانا تدعى المسقى، فرحب بهم أصحاب تلك البقعة من اللمعيين التتوخييين العرب وبيت الأصفر لحاجتهم الماسة إلى اليد العاملة.

بعد ذلك نزح سكانها في أوائل سبعينات القرن التاسع عشر، وأيضاً إثر حوادث 1860 إلى بقتايا فالساحل، ترافقهم صورة القديسة تقلا شفيعة الجوديين ساحلاً وجبلاً.

KHERBAT EL ADAS, MASKA, AND AL GHABEH

The villages of Kherbat el Adas, Maska, and Al Ghabeh stand to the east on the mountain next to Deir el Harf, facing the sea. Maska (the stream) is called by its name since several streams run in the land and irrigate the soil. The villages' names in Arabic are just the right explanation: Al Maska and El Ghabeh (the Forest), all referring to the nature and sites of these villages. This good spot, facing the warm winter sun, covered by green fields, and surrounded by fertile lands and forests, was the center of attraction for the Abou Jaoude Family coming from Deir El Harf, which no longer had enough space to embrace them all.

Prince Bachir Kaydbeh Abillamah, Prince Abdallah Kaydbeh's sibling in Ras El Metn, helped in this emigration. Maska came first, in the 1690's. From Maska, some moved towards Jourat Al Ballout, where Michael Hanna Bou Moussa from Maska bought land from Kassim Hussein Hreiz from Ras El Metn, for 38 pounds.

Then they moved to Al Ghabeh next to Maska, which the Abillamahs and Asfar families owned, and bought from them lands since 1772, until they owned all the lands in 1880. And in 1885, the Asfar family sold out their last real estate and moved to Beirut and Al Sham.



In the mountains, inhabitants produced silk, planted vegetables and seeds, and raised cattle. Above all, the village men served their country and some were good servants of the Lord. St. Chaaya monastery, which was built by the Antonine

monks in 1700, had welcomed so many Maska monks, who worked faithfully in order to improve the monastery and its churches, that people called it the “monastery of Maska people”. The list of names of the priests who had served in this monastery from the Abou Jaoude family numbers over 40, which shows the spiritual greatness of their service for their religion and country.

In 1929, the Maska and Al Ghabeh inhabitants started to cut a road at their own expense from Brummana till Maska church courtyard. The government undertook covering the road with asphalt in 1943. In 1944, the inhabitants cut down a passage for water from Al Manboukh, Brummana, at their own expense. And in 1948, they also undertook to provide electricity at their own expense.

Those plans were the start of an upswing, especially in Al Ghabeh, where modern buildings were formed, which qualified it to be one of the best villages to spend summer vacations. It soon became a resort for serenity and peace seekers, renowned for its panoramic views and healthy weather.

After Maska, the Abou Jaoudes moved to Jourat Al Ballout and the coast. They used to take their deceased to bury them in Maska, their ancestors’ homeland, until they built churches by the name of their patron saint in Maska, St. Takla, in Bkenaya and Jal El Dib in order to stay gathered in one parish throughout the distant homelands.



انها في الحقيقة قرية
الخيال بطبيعتها فتستلقي
منبسطة عند الأسفل تجمع
الرؤيا وتبعث الإستقرار، وتأخذ
بالارتفاع الى أن تطل قدمك
ساحة شفيعتها القديسة تتلا،
فيحلو لك الوقوف أمام محطة
الإيمان فترتاح، وتدعى الي
وليمة التقوى والفضيلة، فتدخل
بسلام... صعوداً الى القمة
فتكتمل الحقيقة ويرتجف
الحلم، في الطريق يلوح لك
السنديان العتيق ويبتسم
الصنوبر مرحباً، وخير دفق
الينابيع يدفق الخير من أرض
الخير... قرية عريقة في التاريخ



هضبة المسقى المرصعة بأشجار الصنوبر، المطلّة على أجمل بقع خضراء من جبال لبنان ووديانه

بلدة التلال الكبيرة،
الواسعة، المطلّة، وسط بيئة
صنوبرية جميلة، تحت
سماء زرقاء ونسيم بارد
وشمس دائمة حتى في معظم
أيام السنة، تضيئ الهندسة
المعمارية فيها جمالاً عظيماً
كاشفاً عن جزء أساسي في
لغز الشعور بالحرية، والأمان
يلزم الإنسان في كل الأوقات،
هذا ما دفع بأجدادنا منذ
القرن السابع عشر اختيار
المسقى منطلقاً للعيش لتشمل
ممتلكاتهم الشاسعة بمحيطها
قبل تمددهم خارج الجبل
وصولاً الى شاطئ البحر...

كنيسة مار تقيلا
المسقى



من ساحة كنيسيتها (١٨٦٠) قرارات جامعة، ورجال أنقياء ترهبوا. بلغ عددهم أربعين راهباً جودياً دخلوا دير مار أشعيا في الرهبنة الانطونية حملوا الرسالة وساهموا في خدمتها.

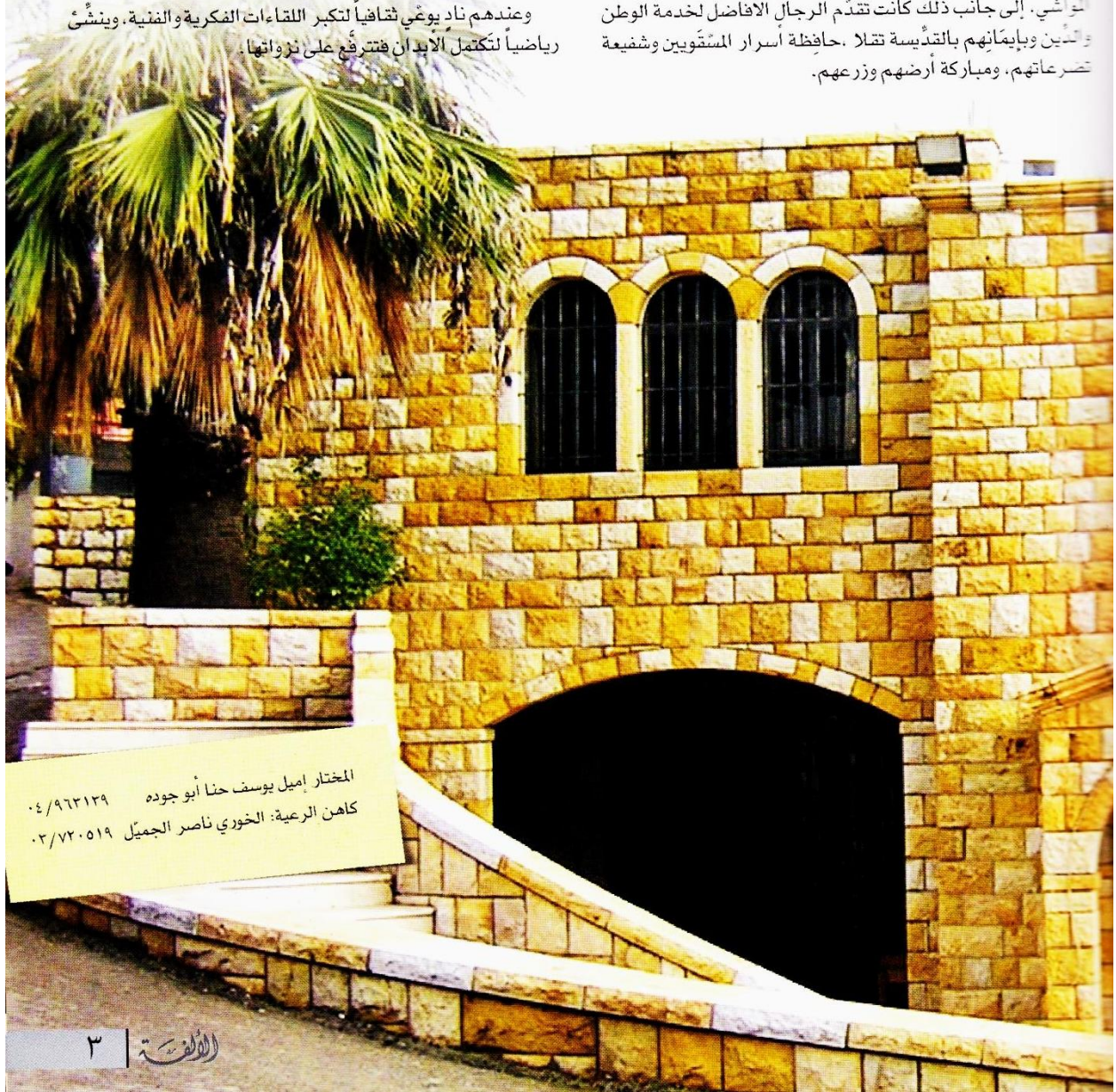
يتميز أهلها بدمائة الخلق والهدوء، وكرم الآداب والكف، واتحادهم بكافة فئاتهم الاجتماعية حول شفيعتهم القديسة تقلا، وعملهم الرعوي الهادف إلى جمع الناس إلى الأسرة الكبرى، ... ويعضد أبناء الرعية واحداً إلى الآخر ولا يتبرمون ولا يضعفون. وهاكم أخوية الحبل بلا دنس كما الطلائع والفرسان من أجل فضيلة الشبان وبدحض الرذيلة بينهم يثبتون في نفوس الشبيبة عزيمة التربية المسيحية الخالصة.

وعندهم ناد يوعي ثقافياً لتكبر اللقاءات الفكرية والفنية، وينشئ رياضياً لتكتمل الأبدان فتترفع على نزواتها.

تختصر الواقع فترى فيها الأمل المشرق والعظيم. تتعاضد مع النصارى فيكون السبيل إلى الحياة، وتتعانق مع الأهداف فتشعر أنها السمات المضاف إلى سائر الركائز «الجودية» لتبقى المنارة مضاءة وبيتى الشعار مرفرفاً.

وفي العودة إلى الجذور، ومن المسقى، راحت العائلات تبحث عن التشار واسع عبر التاريخ في شتى الحقول راجية من وحي «الجودة» تحقيق وتثبيت واقعهم في البلدات والمدن الجودية، على سبيل المثال لا الحصر جورة البلوط، بقنايا-جل الديب، الزلقا، انطلياس، بحالا، فالوغا وفي بلاد الإغتراب.

كانت هذه البقعة الطيبة تنتج الحرير والحبوب وتربى فيها النواشي، إلى جانب ذلك كانت تقدم الرجال الأفاضل لخدمة الوطن والدين وبإيمانهم بالقديسة تقلا، حافظت أسرار المستقيين وشفيعة تضرعاتهم، ومباركة أرضهم وزرعهم.



From Kherbat Al Adas descended the Abou Aoun family in Ain Saadeh, Waked and Kamar families in Al Ghaba, Abboud in Aabadiya, Jourat Al Ballout, Abi Yaghi and Ignatius in Btedine... as shown in the family tree details.



Kherbet El Adess



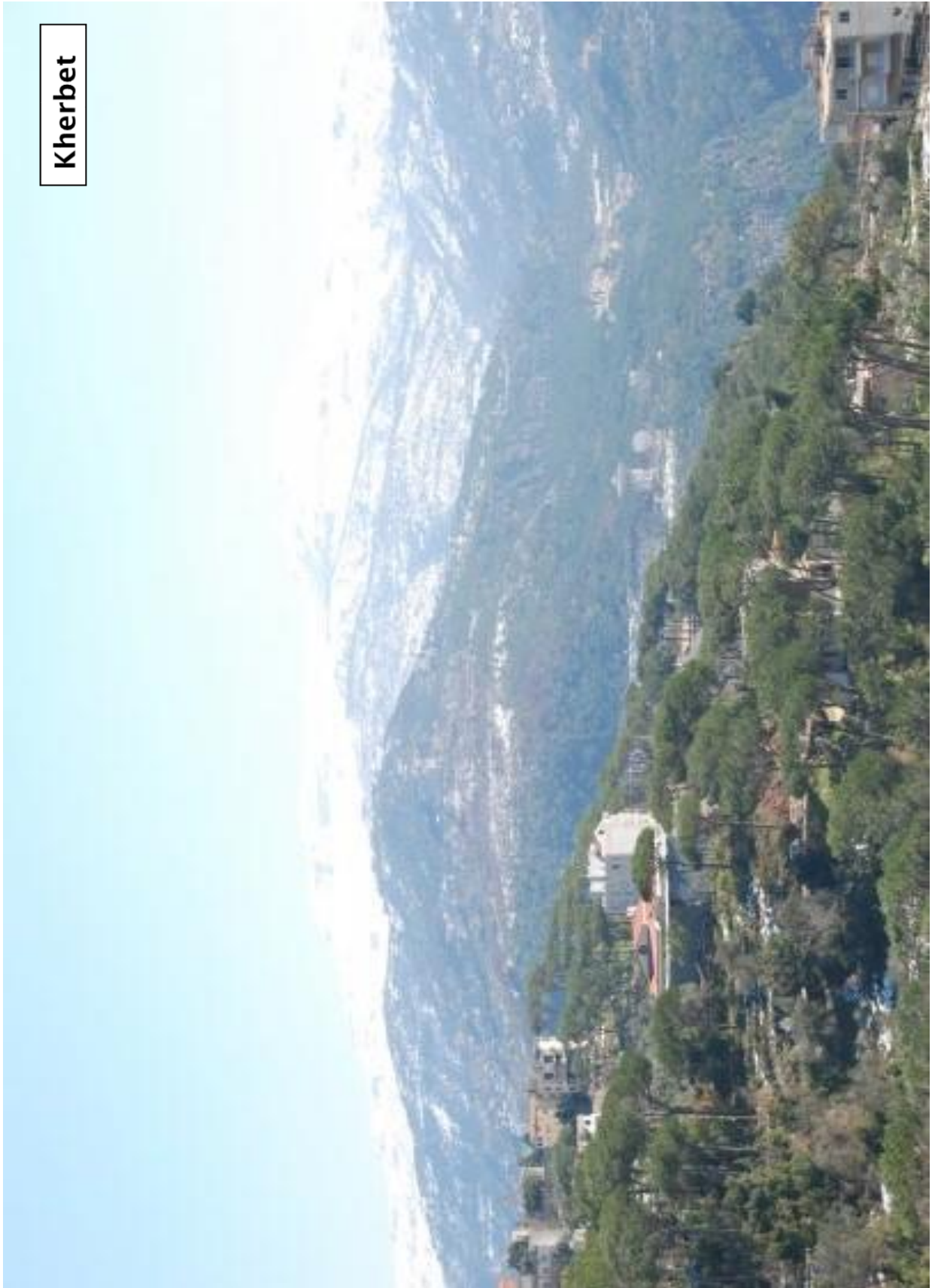
Maska

Snow





Kherbet





Maska - Circa 1950



قريتي المسقى

بقلم الاب يوحنا ابوجودة

قريتي المسقى تقع على منحدر جميل , تظللها اشجار الصنوبر والزيتون والخروب وتكملها حقول الفواكه والخضار , وتختتمها احراج اليرز والبلوط والسنديان .
والناظر الى قريتي من الجنوب يراها كشجرة عيد الميلاد وسقف البيت الاسفل عتبة للبيت الاعلى , تتدفق من نوافذها انوار الكهرباء , وتزينها اكواز الصنوبر السمراء , وترصعها حبات الزيتون الخضراء , وتكفلها كروم العنب والتين مثقلة باثمارها الناعسة وعناقيدها الوهاجة , وتحضن قريتي كنيسة العتيقة بجرسها الرنان وساحتها الواسعة مسرح افراحها واتراحها واحتفالاتها .
قريتي كانت زراعية تمون اسواق ظهور الشوير وبكفيا وبيت مري وبرمانا بانواع الفواكه والخضار , البندورة والخيار والكوسى واللوبياء والخوخ والعنب والتين صيفا , والسلق والخس والملفوف شتاء , ينقلها اليها ابائي واخوالي على ظهور الدواب .
فجر قريتي يرج هدوءه , صياح الديكة وخوار لبقر وخرير المياه ووقع معاول ومجارف المزارعين , اصوات اقرب الى الاذان من صخب الجاز والبتلز والروك اندرول .

سكان قريتي الاولون زعنيون , نزحوا مع نزوح بني اعمامهم من تولا البترون الى كسروان والقاطع وضواحي بيروت والمنتين , حوالي عام 1660 ونزلوا في بقعة طيبة شرق برمانا , حيث تجري ينابيع عذبة تروي ارضها الخصبة تدعى المسقى , وتقع بين خربة العدس شرقا والغابة غربا , فرحب بهم اصحاب تلك البقعة من اللمعيين وبيت الاصفر لحاجتهم الماسة الى اليد العاملة .

وكان لاحد ابناء عمهم ابو نجم خيرالله الزعني الذي نزح ابوه نجم خيرالله الى دير الحرف صداقة حميمة مع الامير عبدالله قيدبية اللمعي من رأس المتن , وقد دعاه لزيارته في جبال فالوغة المطلة على سهل البقاع , وهناك فاض الخير الوفير امام الضيف الكبير , ونحرت الذبائح , وشقت خزوف القريشة , ومدت سطول اللبن والجبن , وقدمت انواع المأكولات والفواكه , مما ادهش الامير وصحبه , وعند عودته الى مقره في رأس المتن , كان لا بد له من

المرور في دير الحرف , فاعترضت القافلة زوجة ابو نجم المذكور , وقام رجل على احد سطوح القرية ينادي باسمها : حرام على كل من يمر من هنا , دون ان يذوق من زاد ابو نجم خير الله , فاستفزت الامير بادرة السخاء العفوية هذه تصدر عن امرأة تساوت مع زوجها بالارحية والكرم , فأرسل من ينادي بين القوم : لا يدعى بعد اليوم ابو نجم خير الله بل يدعى "ابوجودة" وتتأقل الناس من هذه الحادثة شتى الروايات والاخبار المشرقة , هدهدت اعتزاز الزعنيين في المسقى بأبناء اعمامهم , وعندما قصدها بعضهم حوالي عام 1712 بعد ان ضاقت دير الحرف بعددهم المتزايد وطروشهم الوفيرة , انزلوهم بينهم على الرحب والسعة , باعتبارهم من الاصل الواحد , وتحابوا وتزاوجوا واخذوا عنهم لقب "ابوجودة" , وتحذرت من هذا التمازج سلالات لا تزال بيننا الى يومنا هذا , وهكذا توحدت القرستان التوأمان , وبات لا يخلو تجمع جودي من وجود فيه للمسقى ودير الحرف . هذه لمحة موجزة من تاريخ سكان قريتي الاقدمين ايام اجداد الاجداد .

اما عن سكانها في عهد ابائنا واجدادنا نحن , فقد مر عليها نزوحان اولهما في اوائل سبعينات القرن الماضي الى بقايا فالساحل , ترافقهم فيه صورة القديسة تقلا شفيعة الجوديين ساحلا وجبلا , وقد كان تسرب بعضهم فرادى منذ سنة 1830 حتى الشواطئ البحرية , وكان اباؤنا يقولون : ظل بعض اولئك النازحين الى زمن غير بعيد يقولون موتاهم الى المسقى ليجنزوهم في كنيسة ويدفنوهم في القرية الام .

والنزوح الثاني كان الى العالم الآخر , عندما فتك بهم داء الجدري في الحرب العالمية الاولى , وهنا لا بد من كلمة حق اسجلها , وقد ردها الكثيرون بعد تلك الحرب مباشرة , وفيها يشيدون بهمة المأسوف عليه المرحوم سليم نوفل ابوجودة ذلك الرجل الطيب الذي دفن خمسين جثة من المصابين كما يقولون , في اسفل الظهرة لجهة الوادي , وقد زرت ذلك المكان في مطلع حياتي الكهنوتية حيث صليت وبكيت .

اما الآن وقد وصلنا الى العشرينات فارى ان اصنف سكان قريتي بقدر ما تسمح لي ذاكرة ابن العاشرة من العمر .

ابناء قريتي اذكاء واصحاب همّة شماء , مضيافون سريعاوا الخاطر حاضروا النكتة , يتقنون السياسة اكثر من الرئيس صائب سلام والعميد ريمون اده والاستاذ غسان التويني , وهم لبنانيون صميون , مجبولون بالعزة والعنفوان والحرية , وبالامس القريب , عندما ظهر زعيم بعيد , وحوم حول لبنان , وهلعنا جميعا على المصير , همس في اذني ادهم وهو لا يزال حي يرزق : عند الاقتضاء سأبتلع قنبلة واذهب فأتحسس بذلك الزعيم لتفجر بي وبه .

اولئك اهلي فجئني بمثلهم اذا جمعتنا يا جريير المجامع

تركت الحرب ابناء قرיתי منهوكين ومضنوكين مهيزي الجناح مشردين, فعضوا على جراهم وللموا شتاتهم , وعادوا الى كنيسة تقلا يصلون , وبعد القداس كانوا يخرجون الى ساحتها يلعبون بالكرة والطابة كالمراهقين , ثم بعد مداولة قصيرة ينطلقون مجتمعين الى احد المنازل يغنون ويسمرون لينسوا احوال الحرب وآسيها . حال لم ينعموا بها طويلا اذ هب على لبنان في اواسط العشرينات , عاصفة من الزعامات والوجهات والسياسات والصراعات على السلطة , تسبق عادة كل تغير حكومي مزقت ابناء قرיתי ومزقتهم شذر مذر .

وحلت الحرب العالمية الثانية , فوأت تلك العاصفة الهوجاء ومات الكثيرون فيها وغاب غيرهم عن المسرح , وتحولت المسقى بعدها وتحديدا في الستينات من قرية زراعية الى مدينة جامعية , وبات لا يخلو بيت من جامعي او اثنين الى خمسة , كما برز جيل جديد بعقلية جديدة , محب للسلام والوئام , يتزعمه شاب مثقف متفهم , وتحلق حوله الشباب الواعي , واسسوا ناديا اطلقوا عليه اسما . واقعا هو : نادي التوعية والانطلاق , واخذوا يعملون جاهدين , على اعلاء شأن قريتهم , واعادة الاعتبار اولا الى اسمها من المسقى , كما قرأه احد الموظفين البارعين على طلب رخصة النادي , الى المسقى , وسرعان ما انتشر هذا الاسم في معظم المناطق اللبنانية , بفضل ما احيا شباب النادي من الحفلات والمباريات الرياضية والرحلات الى مزارات دور العبادة والمهرجانات .

وغاب الرئيس المؤسس , وعاش الرئيس الجديد الذي حافظ هو وشبابه على الخط المرسوم , ففتحوا المدارس الصيفية , ووزعوا الجوائز على المتفوقين , ودربوا الفرق الفنية , وغيرها وغيرها من المشاريع العمرانية , وبالتالي واصلوا النشاطات البناءة المختلفة في شتى الميادين .

وها هم اليوم يعيدون يوبيلهم الفضي , بزخم انطلاقتهم الاولى , فحق لهم علينا المناصرة والتنهائي والاماني باحراز التقدم والنجاح والعطاء , كما حق لهم القول مع الشاعر :

تلك اعمالنا تدل علينا فانظروا بعدنا الى الاعمال

برمانا في 1995/5/22



معلومات عامة :

* المسقى تعني وقت السقي . والمسقوي تعني الزرع المسقي بماء الانهر . المسقاة موضع السقي (بحسب منجد اللغة والاعلام) الارجح ان المعنى الأخير هو الانسب لغنى هذه البقعة بالمياه وخصوبة ملراعيها . اذ يقال انها تحوي ما يوازي الخمسين نبعا , ما جعل الامراء اللمعيين يقصدونها لارواء خيولهم .

* ترتفع قرية المسقى عن سطح البحر نحو 600 متر .

* عرفت المسقى قديما بصناعة الحرير من تربية دود القز , وتحضير الاعلاف فضلا على تربية المواشي . الى انتاج دبس الخرنوب بواسطة معاصر خاصة بلغ عددها اثنان . اما معاصر الزيوت فناهزت الاربع . هذا وكان يتم استخراج الكلس عن طريق ما عرف قديما بالأتون .

* في عام 1929 باشر اهالي المسقى والغابة شق طريق على نفقتهم من برمانا حتى ساحة كنيسة المسقى فعبدتها الحكومة عام 1943 (عن كتاب آل لبوجودة للمؤرخ الخوري بولس ابوجودة) .

* سنة 1930 كان هناك مدرسة يصل عدد طلابها الى ثمانية وثلاثين تلميذا وقد تسلم ادارتها وتولى التعليم فيها السيد سعد عازار .

* افتتحت فيها الدولة مدرسة رسمية في العام 1945 - 1946 في مبنى وقف مار تقلا الملاصق للكنيسة وكان من بين اساتذتها الاستاذ فرعون خليل ابوديوان من العيون والاستاذ جورج شديد ابوجودة والاستاذ الياس ناصيف عقل ابوجودة الذي الحقت المدرسة على ايامه بثانوية راهبات الصليب الرسمية في برمانا

* جهزت بالهاتف في 29 آذار 1946 وبالماء في تموز 1946 على نفقة الاهالي . اما الكهرباء فوصلتها في 23 ايلول 1951 .

دير المساقنة

المسقى اسم لقريتي أطلقه عليها الامراء اللمعيون التتوخيون العرب ، عندما كانوا يقولون وردت الخيل الى المسقى ؛ وربما هم الذين أعطوا اسماء عربية واقعية كل القرى المجاورة لهم في برمانا ، كالغابة وخربة العدس والعيون وجورة البلوط وغيرها .

وفي حوالى سنة ١٧٠٠ بنى الرهبان الانطونيون ديرا "للقديس أشعيا الراهب على تلة استراتيجية في المنطقة ؛ كانت كنيسته كما أذكر جيدا" نسخة طبق الاصل عن كنيسة المسقى ، في مقاساتها وتوجيهها ، قبل تطور بناء الكنيستين في ايامنا هذه .

وقد ترهب في هذا الدير وفي غيره كثير من الجوديين ، فنظم المغفور له المرحوم الخوري بولس أبو جودة عن سجلات الرهبانية ، لائحة بأربعين راهبا "جوديا" خدموا الرهبنة المذكورة ، وعملوا على انائها وازدهارها ، وها أنا اقتطف من تلك اللائحة اسماء ومهام أبناء المسقى الذين ترهبوا في دير مار شعيا كما يلي :

١- القس موسى ابن ابو نعمه أبو جودة من المسقى ، ترهب عام ١٧٦٤ وتوفي عام ١٨٣٠ .

٢- الأبائي سلوانس ابو جودة ابن رزق الله سعد أبو جودة من المسقى ١٧٧٩ كان رئيسا "عاما" ١٨١٨ - ١٨٢١ وعمل على ازدهار دير مار شعيا ودير القلعة ؛ وكان يمتاز بخطه الجميل ، فنقل عدة كتب بيعية منها كتاب الخطب البيعية ، تعريب المطران جرمانوس فرحات ١٧٠٧ وقد نقله عام ١٧٩٢ . توفي في ١٦ آذار ١٨٣٨

٣- الأخ مكسيموس بن الياس عطيه أبو جودة ، ترهب عام ١٧٨١ وتوفي ١٨١٨ .

٤- الأخ وهبه بن رزق الله سعد أبو جودة ، ترهب عام ١٧٨٦ وتوفي ١٨٢٦ .

٥- الاخ يواصف بن رزق الله ابوجودة ترهب عام ١٧٩٦ وتوفي ١٨٢٦ .

٦- القس سرابيون ابوجودة كان يرغم العاملين على ادارة وازدهار دير مار اشعيا ودير مار انطونيوس البادواني في بعيدا ودير مار ادنا .

٧- الاخ ميخائيل ابوجودة ترهب ١٨٠٥ ، خدم الرهبنة باخلاص وبسيرة حميدة توفي ١٨٧٢ .

٨- القس يواصف المسقاوي توفي ١٨٤٧ .

٩- القس مبارك ابوجودة من المسقى .

١٠- القس الياس بن يوحنا ابوجودة كان رئيسا لدير القلعة ، وقد لبس الاسكيم على يده ، نسيبه القس بطرس بن وهبة فارس ابوجودة من دير الحرف عام ١٨٧٢ توفي ١٨٨٣ .

- ١١- القس سلوانس ابو جودة ترهب ١٨٦٦ وتوفي ١٨٩٠ .
١٢+١٣- القس ارسانيوس المسقاوي ابن جبرائيل ابو نصر ابو جودة وأخوه سليمان
كان بين العاملين على ادارة وازدهار دير مار شعيا ، توفي ١٨٤٠ .
١٤- الأخ أركاديوس من المسقى توفي ١٨٤٥ .
١٥- القس يواصاف مسقاوي كان خوري رعية ، توفي ١٨١٧ .
١٦- القس انطونيوس مسقاوي توفي ١٨٦٤ .
١٧- القس سلوانس من المسقى ترهب ١٨٦٥ .
١٨- الخوري الياس غبوس من المسقى قضى أواخر حياته في دير مار أشعيا
مصليا" .

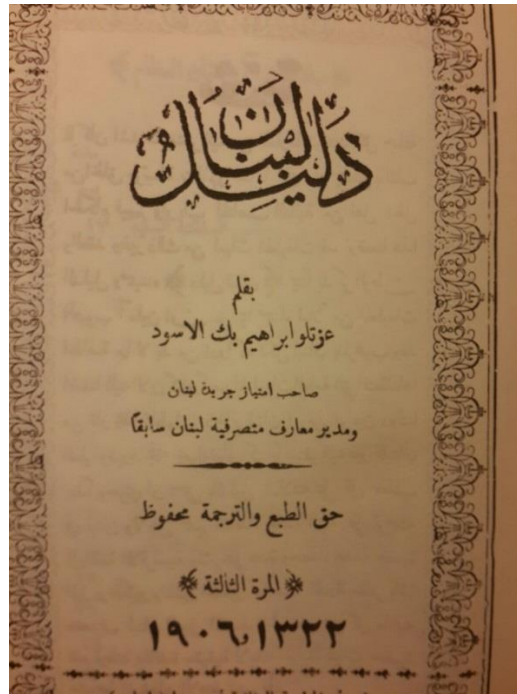
عدد استرعى انتباه السكان المجاورين فأطلقوا على الدير اسم "دير المساقنة" كما في
العنوان أعلاه ، وكان الرهبان المذكورون يصلون الى الله بشفاعاة القديسة تقلا لأجل
قريتهم وأبنائها ، مما شكل حولهم وحولها سورا" منيعا" يحميهم ويحميها من طوارئ
الزمان .

وقد نقل الينا الرواة والى الآباء والجدود ، كيف عصا باب كنيسة المسقى الصغير
على فراريع وبلطات المهاجمين في الزمن البعيد ، فصمد ولم يستسلم ، وكيف فرطت
تلك الصلوات مدفع زندوقة ، الذي صوبه الأغراب الى كنيسة مار تقلا ، بالأمس
القريب ، كما أخبرنا شهود عيان

ليؤدبوا ابناء المسقى الذين على الرغم مما يجري لا يزالون يجتمعون في كنيسة
قريتهم ، ويقرعون جرسها الرنان ويصلون .
انها الصلاة أيها القارئ الكريم هي التي اذا ما وهنت مدينة الانسان ، تسلم عبيد الله
من الاخطار والمهالك .

ألم يقل لنا السيد المسيح نفسه ، كل ما تسألون الي بالصلاة بايمان تتألون؟
وهل من ايمان أعظم من ايمان المنقطعين الى الله بالصلاة والعبادة ؟

برمانا في ١٩٩٥/٦/٨
الخوري يوحنا ابو جودة



الغابة فيها من الموارد مئة واسم شيخ الصلح فيها الشيخ
يوسف سليمان ابو جوده واسم المختار الشيخ سمعان غصن وينتج
فيها من الشرائق ٢٠٠٠ اقة ومن الزيت اربعة قناطير وعدد
الحوانات الداجنة فيها ٣٠

المسقى فيها من الموارد ١١٠ وهي تابعة مشيخة الغابة
وحاصلاتها من الشرائق ٢٠٠٠ اقة ومن الزيت خمسة قناطير
وحيواناتها الداجنة ٢٠

In ancient times, Maska was a home for Phoenicians, Romans and others who have inhabited Lebanon.

Phoenician Times:

Like many of the neighboring towns, including Deir el Harf, Beit Mery, Jouret el Ballout, and Brummana, there is evidence the Phoenicians lived in these parts.

A Naous (Sepulchre) for Phoenician burial was found in Kherbet, near Kamil's house, and was available to be seen until recently, until uncaring minds and hands destroyed it for the stone.

In the 1960's, a treasure trove of Phoenician gold and bronze items was discovered in a dig in Maska by Abu Nadim. The contents were confiscated by the State as public property.

Roman & Byzantine Times:

In Roman times, the large Roman garrison and Student residents in Beit Mery roamed the neighbouring regions, including Maska.

Churchill and Urughart mention visiting and seeing a Roman Aqueduct and bridge below Brummana on the Eastern side (i.e. Ghabeh and Maska), over what is now the Je'emani River in the 1860s. The water is drawn from inside the mountainside, through a tunnel, in a stone duct, carved meticulously with a covering stone fit into its grooves. The bridge for the duct was in ruins then, and must have been scavenged since.

From "Roman Berytus" by Linda Jones Hall:

"The city of Berytus received, perhaps from imperial donation, the typical structures deemed appropriate for urban life. The aqueduct may date from the reign of Nero and the improvements made by his envoy in 56 AD. The aqueduct crossed the Magoras River (Nahr Beirut) just to the north of the city by a bridge which measured 240 meters in length and was composed of three ranges of arches. The ruins which survive are impressive and have been compared to those of the Pont du Gard. The water was dispersed within the city

by a series of canalizations. A canal cut from rock which then allowed water to flow into rockcut basins has been found in the city. A system of sewer pipes which removed wastes from the city has also been discovered."

From E. Robinson, "Biblical Researches in Palestine and the Adjacent Regions: A Journal of Travels in the Year 1838":

*"Passing over the higher ground southeast of the city we forded Nahr Beirut at some distance south of the bridge; and crossing two low ridges, which here lie between the river and the foot of the mountain, we began to ascend along the projecting buttress or angle of the mountain, formed between the western declivity and that towards the south along the deep gorge of the Beirut river. The way **led up by el-Mansuriyeh and some other smaller villages**. It was steep, rough, and difficult, passing often over tracts of naked rock, sometimes smooth and slippery, sometimes rising by steps and layers. In some places the road was a narrow lane between parallel walls, filled in nearly or quite to the top with loose round stones, and presenting the worst possible footing for the horses. Such roads are not unfrequent in Lebanon; but we nowhere found them worse.*

The sides of the mountain are laid off into terraces, wherever there is soil enough to permit it; and even where only a few feet of soil can be scraped together, it is cultivated. Tracts of land, which at first seem wholly covered with stones and rocks, are thus reclaimed ; and the rude narrow terraces, rising in steps and covered above with strong mountain soil, become verdant with grain and the foliage of mulberry and fig trees. These terraces constitute a very striking feature in the agriculture of the mountains. They prevail especially along the western slopes of Lebanon, and mark these as the home of a hardy, industrious, and thrifty population.

The gorge of the river was on our right, as we continued to ascend; and we could see in it the remains of an ancient aque- duct along its southern side, by which the water of a large fountain not far above was once conveyed to Beirut. At one point the aqueduct crossed a branch of the gulf in a double tier of arches; and further down is

said to have been carried for some distance through a tunnel in the rock."

"We returned home by another route; passing first to Beit Mery, a large village just back of the Deir northeast, on a higher point of the ridge. It lies in part straggling upon the steep eastern side, looking down into the deep gulf below. Across this gulf, the inhabitants are able to make themselves heard by the people of the villages on the other side in the Upper Gharb; a distance of nearly or quite two miles in an air line. A portion of the village lies in a saddle of the ridge, beyond the higher point just mentioned. Here we were obliged to apply to the Bitar or horse-shoer of the village, to fasten the shoes of one of our horses. This was done in a primitive way. The hoof is pared by an instrument drawn towards the operator; and the nails clinched after first placing the animal's foot firmly upon a smooth flat stone. The Bitar is strictly a horse-doctor, who includes shoeing as a portion of his art. He is not a black-smith; but procures the shoes and nails from the latter.

Beyond Beit Mery we came upon the remains of an ancient aqueduct, which ran along the saddle above mentioned, and also along another still lower neck or saddle nearer to Brummana. In some parts it is like a wall of large stones, laid up in an orderly manner to cover and protect a line of perforated stones or tubes, through which the water flowed. Some of these perforated stones remain along the way. They are about two feet long, with a hole nearly a foot in diameter. By this contrivance, the water was conveyed across the low neck to the higher site of Beit Mery; precisely as the Croton aqueduct is carried over the Harlem river on the high bridge. Whether the water was anciently carried beyond Beit Mery to the temple, is doubtful. Similar perforated stones are said to have been found nearer the convent; but this needs confirmation. There is nothing now in or around the ruins, that indicates a former abundant supply of water. **The water was brought from the great fountain Ar'ar near Mar Musa**, two hours distant in the northeast.

Brummana is also a large village, lying upon the crest of the ridge, with a wide prospect west and east. An immense oak tree stands in

the middle of the village, and the palaces of the Emirs, are seen at a great distance in all directions.”



Je'emani River

Arab Times:

As the Arab invasion proceeded, many of the Druze families took over the mountain areas, including Beit Mery, Brummana, and Ras el Metn. They lived mainly in the higher towns, while places like Maska were considered farmland, worked by the local peasant population under the protection of the local Druze Lord. Eventually, the Abillama'a princes took over control of the Metn, and brought along with them the Aboujaoude clan that had been with them in Deir el Harf and Ras el Metn. There is no evidence the village had any Druze or Arab population during this period, with the local Christian population moving in and out as the events unfolded, including the Mamluke invasions that emptied many of these parts in the 1300's.

Their final consolidation to Aboujaoude villages came with the 17th Century migration from Deir el Harf.

Turkish Times:

During the Turkish occupation, the Turks left the mountain to itself, under Druze control. However, their constant meddling in Lebanon eventually led to many civil conflicts in 1840, 1845, 1860, which impacted Maska, Ghabeh and the neighbouring area which came under attack. At that time, many Aboujaoudes left the village to start other Aboujaoude enclaves in Jourat, Jal-el Dib, Bkennaya, and elsewhere.

The Direct Turkish impact was mainly felt during the First World War, when Turkish desperation led them to confiscate food supplies everywhere, causing a famine exacerbated by locust invasions and Smallpox. Maska and Ghabeh were greatly affected by this. More than half the inhabitants died, with tens buried in common graves, for fear of infection. Saleem Naufal alone buried 50 people in Kherbet.



The Phoenicians And "Beit Rummana"

The Phoenicians are the first people to inhabit Brummana; they built on Aranta Hill (previously a part of Brummana) a temple for Rummana, the god of air, storm and thunder.

This turned Brummana into a region for worshipers. They also built a religious school, which remains of sarcophagi and stones were discovered in Qannabat Brummana. Beit Mery and particularly in the hill of Aranta, near the convent of St. Achazya (Recently, the region of St. Achazya was administratively separated from the region of Brummana). That was a fortress for the Romans, the Crusaders, the Jarajmah and many others. It is very probable that the Phoenician temple lied on archaeological ruins remaining, up till now, from ancient Roman times.



Phoenician tripe made of the cedar wood and used for trade



A pillar of St. Achazya Convent remaining from the Phoenician era



An old sarcophagus of Phoenician Priests (B.C.) according to the Armenian archaeologist Gushkyan. Now a Christian shrine inside the St. Achazya convent



Aranta Hill: The Phoenician Temple (yesterday), St. Achazya Convent (today)

The Ethronites (Al-Yaatira) Based in Brummana

The Ethronites are groups of Arab pirates who started for attacking ships along the Phoenician seashore during the Roman era. Their power grew in time, and by the middle of the 1st century B.C. they took advantage of the inferior problems in the Roman Empire to rule over most of eastern and southern Lebanon.

The Ethronites built fortresses on the mountaintops to protect themselves and link their regions. Their most famous forts are located in Sannine, Baitroun (Jitarta) and Brummana where they built a fort in 333 B.C. (in 1560, the Christians transformed it into the current church of St. Achazya for the Greek Orthodox).

The Roman Empire exterminated the Ethronites after a long war in the middle of the first century A.D.





Father Francis peering in a Roman well in St. Achaya's Convent

Brummana During the Roman Conquests ...

In the last century B.C., the Romans decided to put an end to the piracy of the Etrurites. During the summer of 63 B.C., they besieged the locations of their fortresses including Brummana (especially the Phoenician Temple and the Etrurites' Fortress) and its neighborhood. It is said that Roman soldiers spent summer vacations in Brummana, their favorite holiday destination; and Augustus Caesar as well as Julius Caesar gave presents to Brummana's princesses.

Queen of Palmyra

Zubayda or Zaynah Al-Zabtin, Queen of Palmyra, is engraved in the masonry of Brummana and other Lebanese regions. She fought the Romans in the 4th century and in 367 A.D., she dug out canals to bring water from "Ajjur" source through eastern Brummana for her people and army in Beirut and the coast.



Queen Zaynah Al-Zabtin

"Al-Maradah"...The First Christians in Brummana...

In the 6th century A.D., a series of earthquakes rocked Lebanon. Beirut (including the coast and hills of Metn) was badly hit in the 555 earthquake that caused the emigration of many people. In 686, Brummana was once again crowded, but this time with the Maronites who came from different parts of Mount Lebanon and Syria, fleeing the Arab and Islamic persecution. They built Brummana before they moved to Antelias, Bikfaya, Bsharri and Beit Chabab. Afterwards, they were known as the Maradah who bravely fought the Omayyad and Abbassid armies. They were more powerful after their unification with the Jarajmah mercenaries of the crusaders who were hostile to the Arabs. The leaders and the kings of the Maradah played later on a key role in the innovation and prosperity of Mount Lebanon. Among their most famous personalities: Emir Ibrahim (nephew of the Patriarch Yuhanna Maroun), Emir Yuhanna, Emir Semaan I and Emir Kheira I.



Maradah's Soldiers



A Druz Sheikh

...The Druz in Brummana...

In the first half of the 11th century, the Druz Call for Unity spread in the Syrian regions and in south Lebanon. Some resided in Brummana. The history of Lebanon was then based on both Maronite and Druz confessions. The hostility between the Druz and the Crusaders was open and a war broke out during which the Druz took over the Shouf. The latter developed a model relationship with the Maradah in Mount Lebanon (particularly in the High and Middle Metn). This relation improved after the Mamlukes (Muslims) entered Lebanon and publicly snubbed the Druz due to a doctrinal conflict between the two confessions.

The Abbassids and the Mamlukes in Brummana...

The Mamlukes are Islamic groups from the Arabic Peninsula. They conquered the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, northern Africa and Western Europe (Andalus). The authority of the Maradah (the Maronites) grew stronger in Mount Lebanon thanks to the exploitation of land resources and the foundation of convents, churches and firm societies. This fact forced the Abbassids to induce the Tannukhi Druz and other Arab tribes to defeat them. Brummana thus witnessed continuous battles that soon turned into a conflict between the Christians (supported by the Crusaders) and the Druz (supported by the Muslims).



Arab Muslim Troops

...1307, Brummana a Desert for 200 years...

In 1302, 1306 and 1307 Arab king Nasser headed fierce military battles against Keswan (the southern side of Nah' Beirut, Kneiseh, the coast and the mountain of northern and southern Metn including Brummana). The decisive battle took place in Ain Sawfar in 1307 where the Mamlukes killed and displaced most of Keswan people (Maronites, Druz, Shiites and other Muslim minorities) and controlled the mountain that became deserted from its people except for Han Al-Fawares (the forefathers of the Al-Ak-Lamaw), princes who settled in this land for a few years.

...1840, Brummana Burnt Again...

In the first half of the 19th century, agriculture flourished in Brummana: sericulture, viniculture, wheat and olive cultures, in addition to the culture of vegetables.

As to industry, it was restricted on clothing, cloaks and leather. In 1840, Emir Bachir II raised the taxes and collected them by force, a fact that led to a conflict between him and the Abi-Al-Lamaas, his advocates. Therefore, in the funeral of Emir Muhammad, father of Abass Abi-Al-Lamaa in Ras El-Metn, the Emirs, Cheikhs and religious chiefs decided to rebel to Emir Bachir II's actions, and nominated Emir Haydar, son of Melhim Chehab, their governor, especially that this happened after political coalitions between the North headed by Youssef Bey Karam and the Abi-Al-Lamaas in the Metn and other parties in Lebanon (at that time 'Mount Lebanon'). And at that period, the Abi-Al-Lamaas played an important political role through their relationships with European countries.

Therefore, to stop the rebellion, Emir Bachir II sought the help of the Ottomans, who sent him 1000 soldiers. Fierce battles erupted and were crowned by the victory of Emir Bachir over the Abi-Al-Lamaas; some villages were burnt among which Brummana (where the general prison was from 1842 till 1854).



Brummana Entrance from Beit Mary

A view of Beirut from Brummana



...1854, Brummana The Capital of the Christians "Ka'em-Makamiah"...

In 1854, the Ottomans ruled Lebanon according to "Chefik Afendi Instructions" which divided Lebanon into two parts. The southern part was known as the Druz "Ka'em-Makamiah", whereas the northern part was called the Christian "Ka'em-Makamiah" headed by Bachir Ahmad Abi-Al-Lamaa who made Brummana the capital for years. Thus, it became the gathering center of VIPs and renowned families, and played an administrative role till 1860's battles and the elimination of the Districts' system substituted by the Mutasarifiah.

Emir Bachir Ahmad Abi-Al-Lamaa



Brummana's history goes for Maska and Ghabeh, its nearest "suburbs" and farmland.

MASKA FAMILIES

Maska, the source of most of the Aboujaoudes, has five sub-clans (“Jebb”). Its pull on the emotions of the family is strong, many (like us) with roots there consider themselves Maskawi’s first even though home is elsewhere.

The Ghosn Branch: includes the author, the Fadlallah, Semaan and Matar sub-branches. “Famous” for their “sleepy” habits, many jokes told about them nodding off at get-togethers. They have family in Bmeryem, Falougha, Zalka, and Jal-El-Dib.

The Khoury branch: inveterate “enemies” ☹ of the Ghosn in local politics, including my friends the Bisharas and Toufics. Many of the Zalka and Jal-El-Dib Aboujaoudes descend from them.

The Abi-Nader Branch: the Neutral party ☺. Always conciliatory, would make good Peace Envoys if anybody is looking. Their “Baranda” (veranda), though, once caused a rauckus that included letters to President Chamoun in those days.

The Abi Abdallah Branch, including the Sleimans, the “outsiders”, living on the outskirts and rarely involved with the local disputes. The Naufals are a branch of the Abi-Abdallahs, but allied by marriage to the Ghosns. You find many Adeles in all of them (Grandma on father’s side, Aunt, Grandma on mother’s side (who died also giving birth to Aunt Adele). Many Taminis (in Bmaryem, Maska), many Fares (Dad’s cousin, our cousins), revealing the names of common ancestors.

The H7erhs are a distinct branch, their nick-name reflecting their stubborn nature, perhaps why they ally with the Ghosn “Daqheems”.

The village is now no longer a pure Aboujaoude enclave, with many visitors living there, and a large permanent contingent of Tarshishis well interwoven. But the “Maska” spirit imbues everyone there, and stays strong across many miles and years, as in our case.

The Maska Aboujaoude Clan, spread across the globe, in their own 3 villages in Lebanon, and hundreds around the world, proud of their valiant name and heritage. Their re-unions celebrate family and ties that bind, the one in the US we host an annual love fest. Their Bullaude brethren in South America, Abujawdehs in North, and Jaoudes and Boujaoudes in Europe and Australia a testament to the Lebanese urge to move, Phoenician blood untamed after millennia. Where Egypt got their

movie AbuGuda spies and Syria their TV police bad guy AbuGoda, we will never know ☺.

The immense effort by Charbel Semaan and Pierre Michel to revitalize the two villages Maska and Ghabeh is paying off handsomely. Charbel energetically leading the Maska Club and Aboujaoude Family activities, including the annual Picnic in Deir el Harf that draws over 2000 Aboujaoudes. Pierre investing Millions renovating the Church in Ghabeh, expanding its land, and Also helping Maska and Oyoun churches, a force for good engaged personally on the ground, watching the construction and “employing” village youths in his activities.



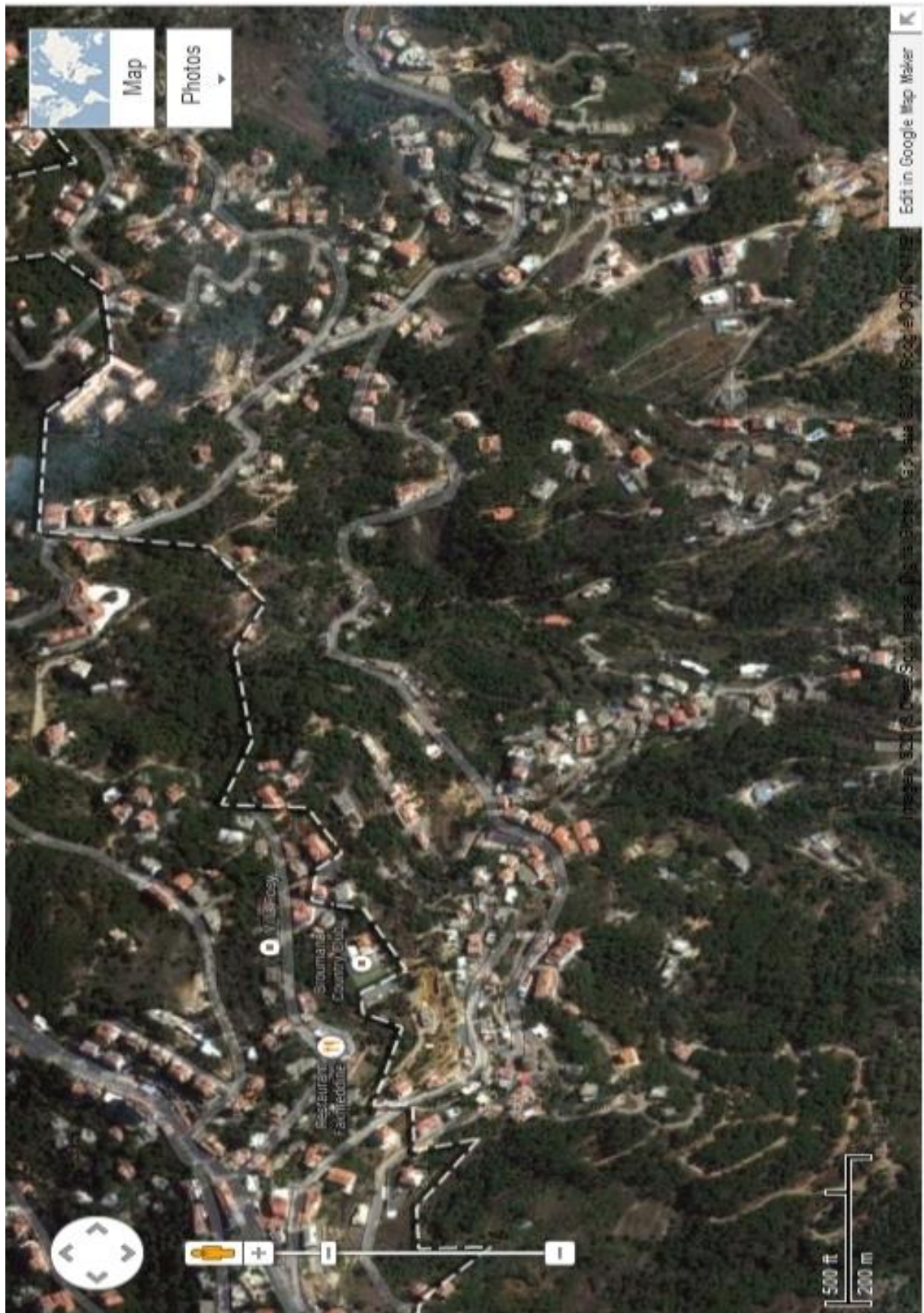
USA Reunion 2012



VILLAGE ALBUM



That Old Church we call Home



FADLALLAH IBRAHIM & ADELE NAUFAL'S FAMILY

Grandpa Fadlallah, the town mayor in his days, his radio the first in the village causing a sensation (Genie in a box rumors). His first wife and son died in World War One, along with about half the population, from starvation and SmallPox. To boot, the Locusts came, and what they left the Turks took. He used to tell stories of following the Turkish Army animals to pick leftover wheat from their dung- that was the degree of desperation. His second wife, my Grandma Adele, a blonde beauty who spent her life quietly in the old house, famous for her crochet skills on which she spent many hours (we still have some of her gifts), tending the Anise tree at the door (her medicinal herb skills a lost treasure), threading the Onion rope (Tejdol) to hang for the winter stock, and cleaning the nearby street. When she used to brag that she raised 10 kids in just One room, her son (Uncle Hafiz, always with something to say) would say: "With one room you had 10 kids, it's a good thing you didn't have 3 or 4 rooms ☺". She died peacefully on the front porch, sitting on her favourite sofa, crocheting to the end. Grandpa, on his deathbed, asked for me specifically to stay over that night, woken up eventually by the hubbub ensuing when he passed away.



Butros Issa and Nuhaad Fadlallah, with Grandma Adele and Grandpa Fadlallah; Mansour (Butros's Brother) on the left



Grandma's Old house, sitting next to the "Wjaq" (heater)



Olga



Zahia



Olga



Nuhad



With Aunt Zahia and Joe. What's with this Hat in every picture?

Grandpa Fadlallah, married to Grandma Adele (Khattar and Khater's sister), had 10 kids: Sons Sami, Hafiz and Henry; Daughters Leia, Olga, Zahia, Nuhad, Linda (RIP); Siham, Nadia. Zahia passed early (brain cancer), as did Olga (Ovarian cancer).



Grandma Adele, born in 1899, registered as Adele Naufal after their family Branch. Birthdates were not commonly recorded then, families typically carving the dates of the Children's births on their "Yuk" (closets). Mom's certificate shows Jan 1 1936, Jan 1 being a default date.



Grandpa's "Gembaz", in Maska house



Grandpa Fadlallah Grandma Adele in front of the Old house

My Grandpa's famous heavy wooden dining table, where we were constantly reminded how he had been able on a challenge to lift it with his teeth in his youth. Many family events at that table which had seen 60 years of history.



Aunt Zahia



Aunt Nuhad



Grandpa & Clan in front of the Old house, 1940's; Nazih in Tarbouche



Whole Clan at Linda's Wedding; Dad, Grandpa, Grandma, Siham, Vic; Grandma Mhabbe right



Henry, Sami, Hafiz



In Younger days, Henry, Sami, Hafiz



Aunt Olga Always Missed



Aunt Zahia



Aunt Siham with her nieces

Julio Bullaude
PARAGUAY 3521 - BUENOS AIRES
TELEF. 84-4250
VINEDOS Y OLIVARES
MENDOZA
OBRAJE - GANADERIA
CHACO

حتى ملا بيوم ٢١ في نون الاول ١٩٦٩
ابني عمي العزيز سامي حفظك الله

من بعد السلام عنكم وعن اهل البيت جميعاً عماكم تكونوا
تكونوا بخير انت و العائلة جميعاً فم بعد اعيدكم بعيد الميلاد وعيد راس السنة
انشاء الله تتعاهد عليكم سني عديدة واياهم مدينة واتم العائلة بخير ثم عيد
عني ارملة عننا فضله واهل بيتها جميعاً وعيد وعني ارملة عني طري واهل
بيتها جميعاً وعيد وعني سرور نعيم واهل بيتهم جميعاً وعيد وعني طري وابنه
فضله واهل بيتهم جميعاً وعيد وعني الديو ويوتوب واهل بيتهم جميعاً وعيد
عني خالي عبدالله واهل بيتهم جميعاً وعيد وعني سعد واهل بيتهم جميعاً وعيد
عني اخائي المسعود والعاية في وجه الفخوم وحضر من عندنا ارملة عني سليم واهل
بيتها جميعاً وعني صعود وخال بوجوده واهل بيتها جميعاً وبعدكم
السلام لكم وادي من عندكم ود ملتم لا فلوكم ناصراً نور
بوجوده

A long-lost cousin always present in our thoughts and discussions is Nasser, son of Tanios, brother of Fadlallah. The tipsy, happy boy jumped on a boat with his uncles Salim and Khater on a whim, and ended up in Argentina. The stories of his drunken humor abound. He always remembered Maska as it remembered him, but he never came back. His lands remain, almost public property now, and we built Sayydet el Karm on one of them.

SAMI FADLALLAH & MINERVA KHATTAR'S FAMILY



Mom & the hugs you can never get back, with Eva and Sandra

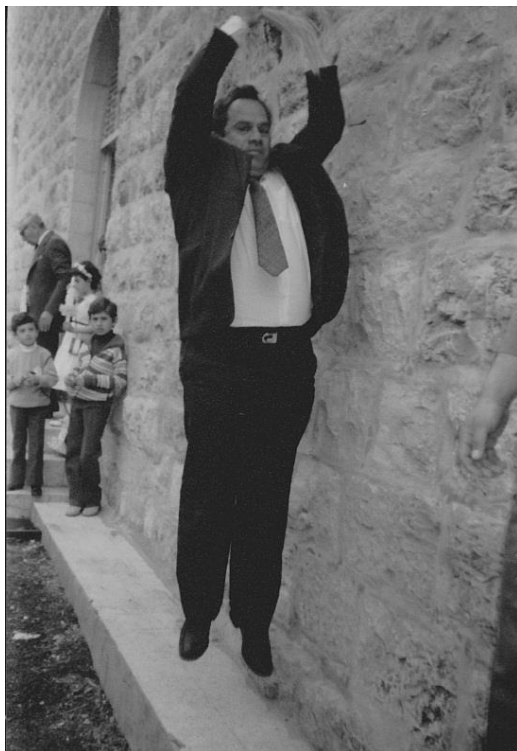
Father Sami Fadlallah (Chief Electrician at Zouk Mikhail) and wife Minerva (RIP) (daughter of Khattar); sons Salim, Tony, Joseph, Elie. Sami the oldest son of the Fadlallah clan, and a tough character in his days, now tending the gardens in Haqlet el Snowbra for his grandchildren. Minerva (Mono) also grew up in tough times, in their days lugging water in jugs from Al-A3ain and tending the cows and the fields. And they did it without complaining that there was no “Delivery Shisha” or that the “Sushi” they ordered was late ☺. Those good old days are gone forever, but not forgotten. The debt we owe to that generation, for their hardships and sacrifice, thinking only of their family and their children, cannot be repaid. The best we can do is remember them fondly, as they loved us.



Minerva with her Kids



And her Husband



Dad, the incomparable Sami Fadlallah Ibrahim Fares Ghosn



Mom & Dad's wedding; Grandpa Fadlallah behind, Asaad on right; Boulos left



If this table could talk and tell of its many visitors



Simca - Family Car ☺



Mom telling the painter at our house, who was painting to the slow tune of “Ooooooof ya boooo zelooooof”, if he could instead paint to the tune of “Ya Hwidal wida lakya” (a much faster tune ☺).

Mom washing our old-style record player in the sink, and miraculously the electronics cooperating and continuing to work. Those hands could do anything. Of course the selection was limited to 2 records we had for about 20 years, so I pretty much memorized Sacha Distel’s “On Dit” and Neil Sedaka’s “Sweet Sixteen” (Neil being of Lebanese extraction).

Mom’s beautiful rhymes and poetry, her education not enough for her to write down, but remembered and heartfelt. Me teasing her that she is leaving me and staying home, when I am going back to the US.

My Aunt Alice admonishing me to stop interrupting to correct her story to eager villagers of how the US Army gave me a parade before I left to visit Lebanon, being a famous scientist and all- telling me I don’t know about these things ☺.



Sami's Verandah, where most of our time was spent; Rita, Mira, Rolla, Antoinette



My Dad's jokes still remembered: He asks his father for 50 liras- His father says: 40, why 30, 20 is enough; here's 10, 5 for you and 5 for your brother. Another: Grandpa telling Grandma in grand style in front of his guests: "Cook us up a dozen eggs" (while signaling only two with his fingers), and "three chickens" while signaling 1/2. Another: Raggedy man enters a restaurant, and orders a big meal; the owner, suspecting the guy can't pay, asks him to leave. The guy says in a serious tone: "if you don't feed me, I'll do what my Father did". The owner, fearing trouble, goes ahead and serves the meal. As the man is about to leave, the owner asks him: "By the way, what did your father do?" "He went home hungry", the meek response.

Dad's constant challenge to build a house like his (multi-story) for 10,000 Lebanese pounds- in his days worth \$5000, now a mere \$6, inflation not included. A lot of the labor was his and family's.

The 60 year old Fig Tree in the yard (remembered still by older immigrants here), tended by Mom, dying the same year she did. New hope springs eternal, though... a new one now grows, awaiting the grandkids.





Sandoura in back garden



Tony



Elie



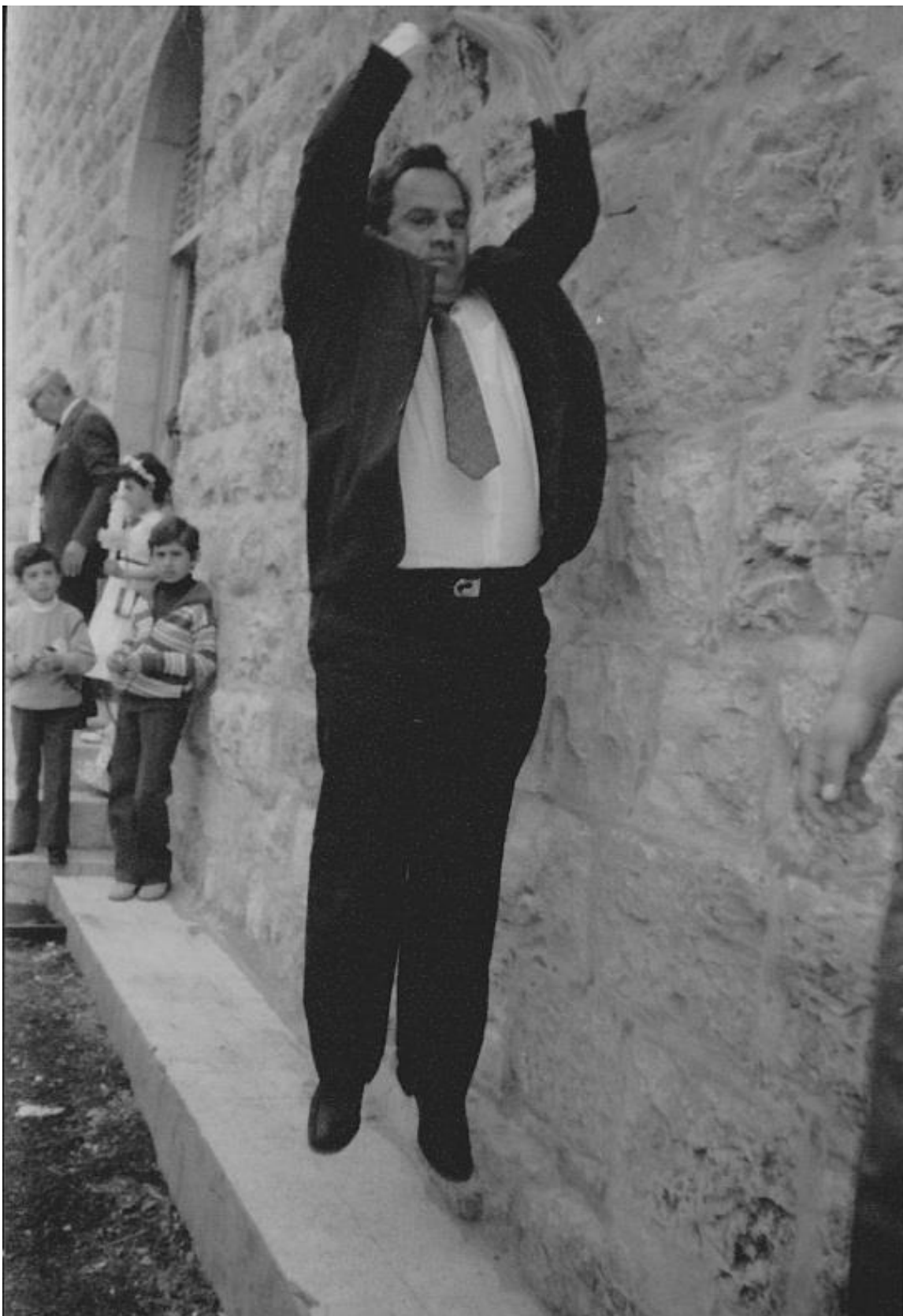
Joseph



Abou Salim, Sheik el Shabab Still



Sami & Minerva



Sami Fadlallah





El Adra comes with the house from Day One



Sami & Minerva wedding, January 17, 1954 (with Badih Lahoud & Laurice)

HAFIZ FADLALLAH'S CREW

Uncle Hafiz, wife Lodi (Miss Achrafieh), son Pierre (Lawyer and Real Estate). Uncle Hafiz an entrepreneur and character in his day, having worked in Kuwait and Abu Dhabi among other places.

Uncle Hafiz's rhymes often retold. When caught without money after having a delicious ice-cream with 3 friends, telling the waiter: "Dakhalna l'Kahwata Arbaa Shababa, Wa Nahno l'Ana bishakkin wa'rtiaba; Anadfaou Naqdatan Yabna l'Kirami, Am Nolqi l'hisaba ala l'hisaba" – the rhyme (we entered the Coffeshop 4 young men, and now we are in fear; Should we pay cash, or leave it in arrear) paying for the ice-cream.

More impressive, but caused a church fight, is his rhyme to a deacon visiting from Brummana, which he recited as the people were leaving the Church: "Chou hal Shemmas El-Ejana, min aradi Brummana; Baddou Yekhdem el Eddas, w-ma byaarefsh el Abana" (Who's this deacon from Brummana come, "Our Father" he cannot hum ☺).



Hafiz

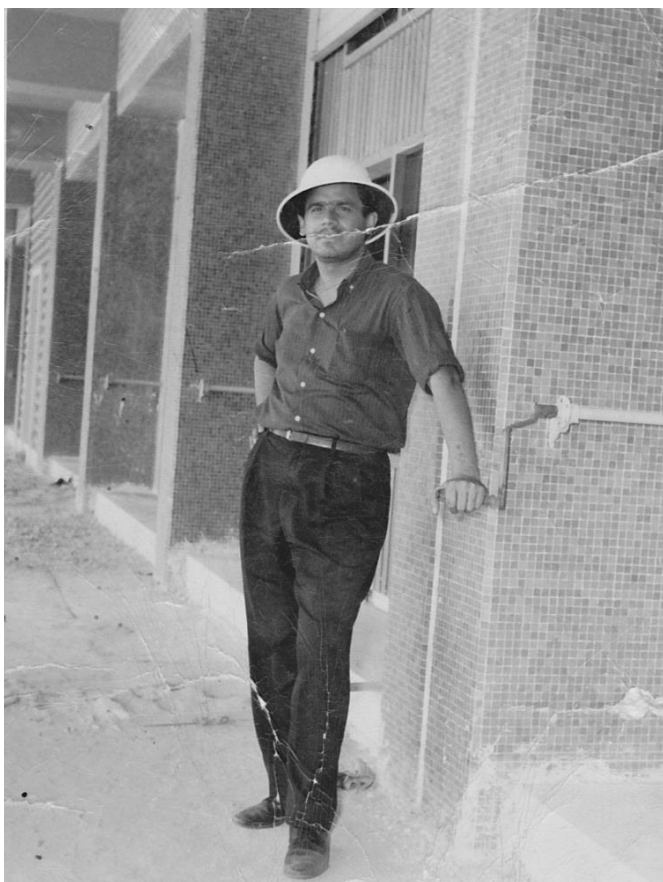
Uncle Hafiz is also known for generously partaking of public land ☺, his building projects slowly inching onto the road or neighboring plots. When told by an inspector the Government allows building 40% of the property, he thanked him, and said that with the 100% of the property he owns, that makes 140% ☺. Uncle is a character not to be repeated- His fancy ways and amusing plays astounding for a village boy of his time.



Pierre and Uncle Hafiz



Don't Mess with the "Uncle"; Aunt Lodi below





Uncle Hafiz Fadlallah

BEIT PIERRE HAFIZ



Pierrot





Zouzou & Pierrot



Pierrot with Family

HENRY FADLALLAH'S CREW



Fadlo



Mimo

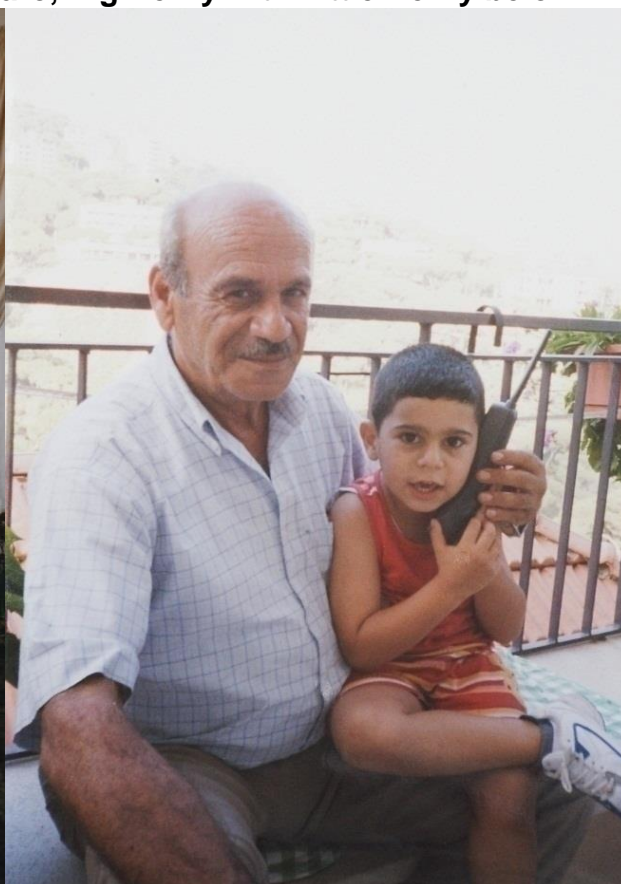


Michi; Maro below





Michi's Wedding to Tony Touma; Maro, Big Henry with Little Henry below





Henry's clan guarding el-Me7hfar ☺



Michi, Tony & Jackie Sunshine



Mimo, Micheline, Maro



Herro & Mimo



Micheline



Mimo & Mr Matar



Fadlallah

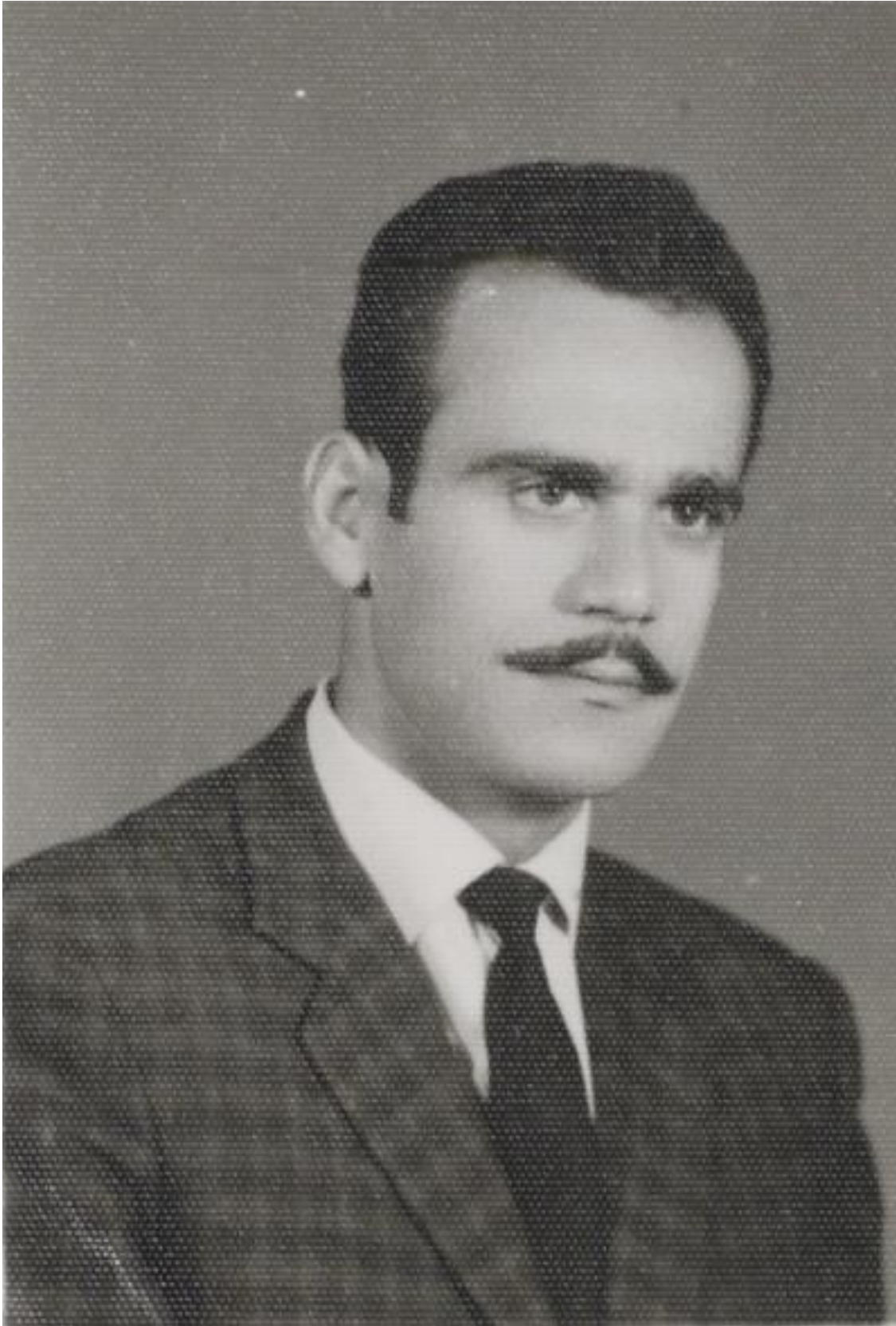


Tant Hafiza and Henry



Herro, Hafiza & Jackie





Uncle Henry Fadlallah

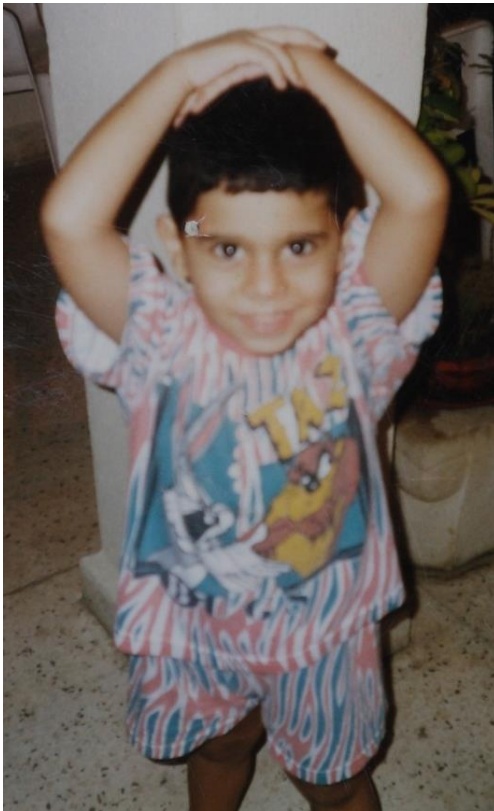
BEIT FADLALLAH HENRY



Fadlallah



Henry



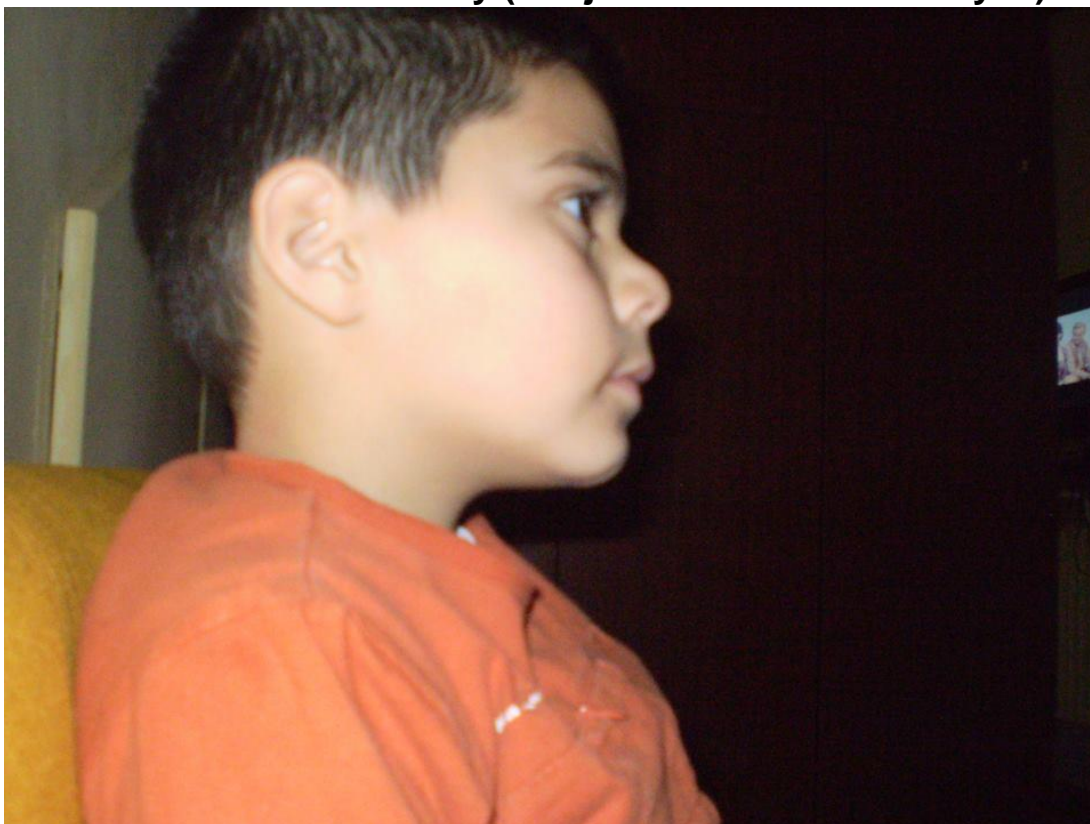
Little Henry



Fadlo



double shot of Guy (H7aji kell el Souar la Henry 😊)





Fadlo & wife Raymonda



Joe's Veranda – Edward Semaan, Yammin, Dad & Fadlo



Raymonda, Jackie, Henry, Guy, Fadlallah





Guy, Jackie, and Henry

LINDA FADLALLAH'S CREW



Aunt Linda at her wedding with her sisters and brothers



Fadi Naufal

Linda's kids: Sons Nabil (Contractor), Fadi (Banker), Elie (Army), and daughter May (Teacher). Husband Michel Naufal (RIP).



Elie and Family (wife Tamar Palazian)



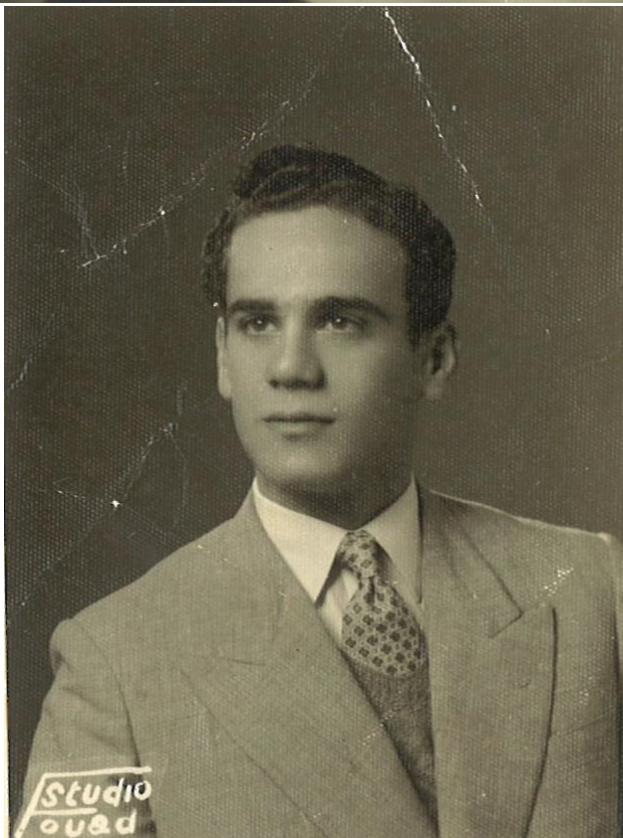
Linda and her full Gang – May, Nabil, Elie, Fadi



Fadi, Linda, Nabil & wife, May, Elie



Nuhad left, Joseph Eid (RIP) Right, Aunt Linda & Michel (RIP) center



Uncle Michel Naufal

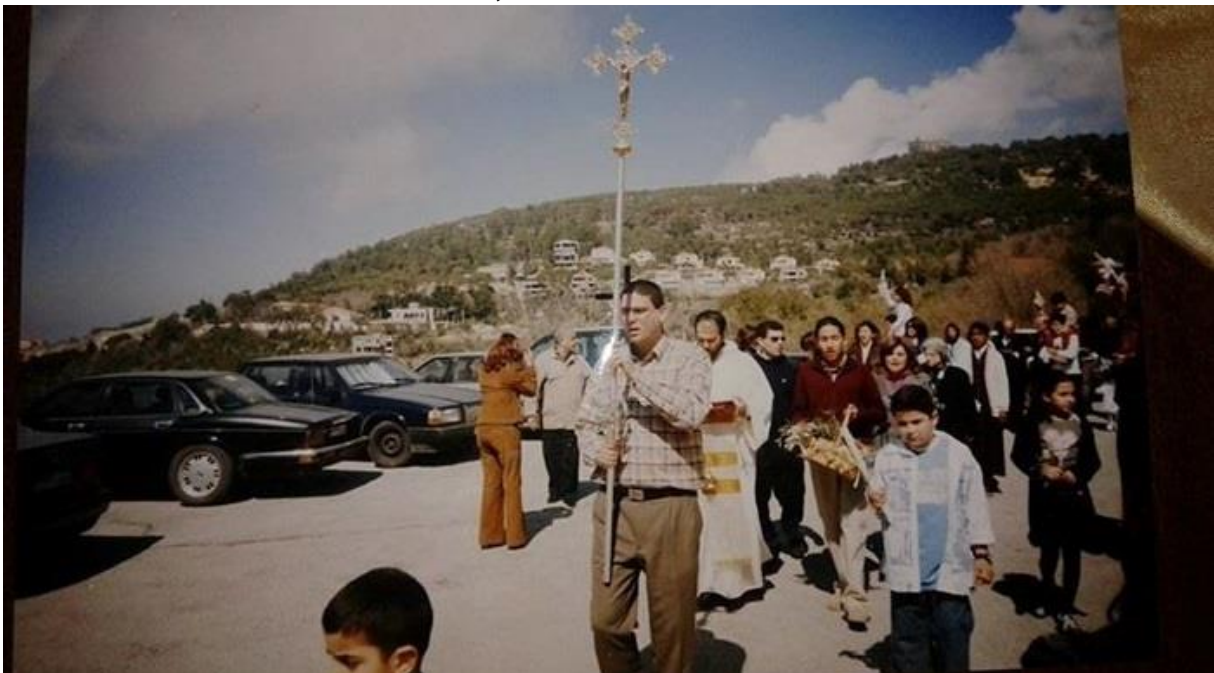
Aunt Linda, Elie Cha'anini

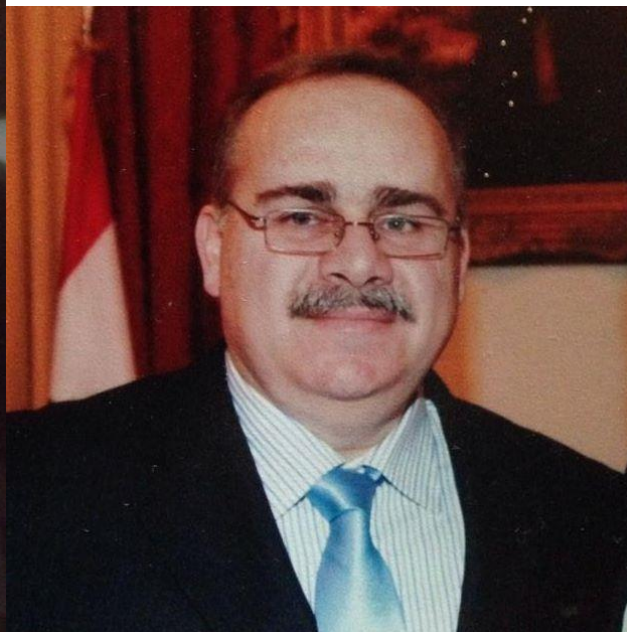


Young Linda; Linda means beautiful, and she is

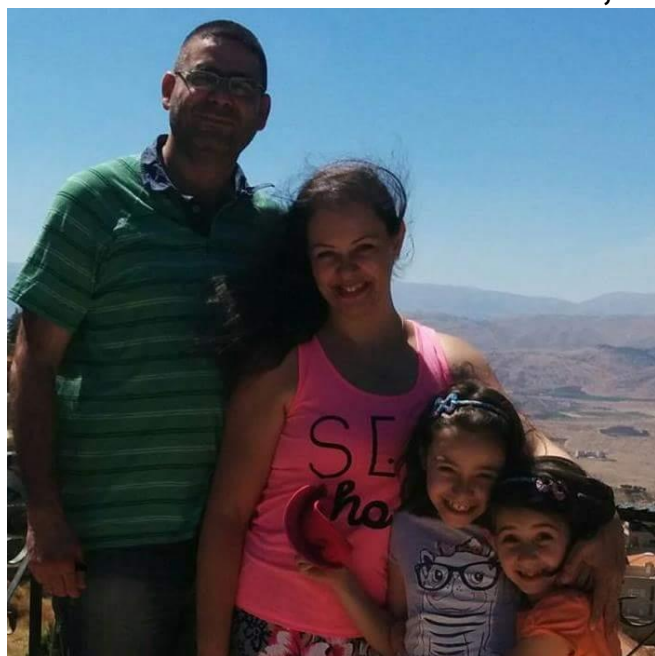


RIP Ya Helwe; Elie in Cha'anini at Ainab

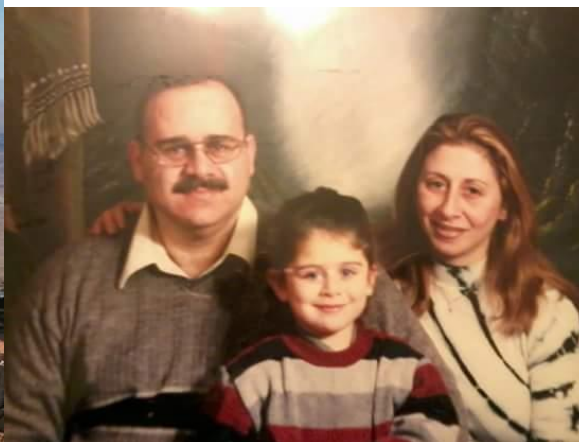




Nabil Naufal, then and now



Elie's brood



Nabil with wife and daughter Paty

Nabil's kids also include sons Michel and Marc.

NADIA FADLALLAH'S FAMILY



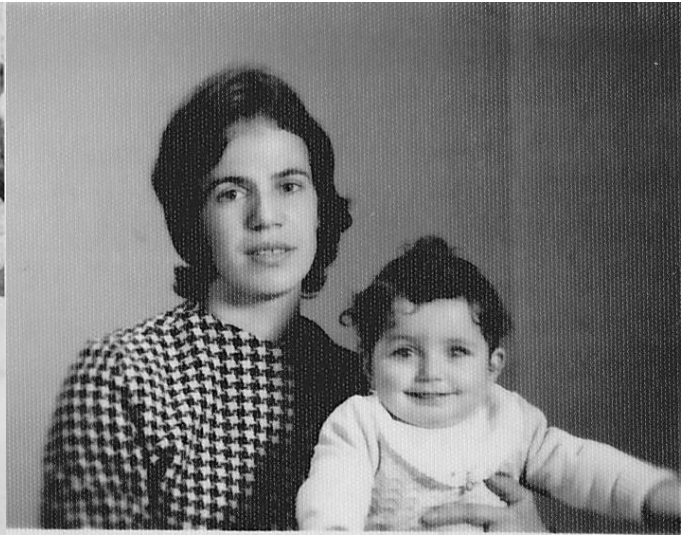
Nadia



Wedding with Uncle Emile Farah, me in front



Aunt Nadia & me



Aunt Nadia with Pierre

Aunt Nadia married Emile Farah from Brummana, where they now live. Her sons Pierre (an executive in Kuwait), Halim (the handsome “Kennedy”) a singer and now businessman in Kuwait, Robert (an electrical contractor in Lebanon), and daughter Salma (m. Harfouche).



Pierre



Miranda & Kids Sara & Carlos



Carlos, Sara, Pierre Farah

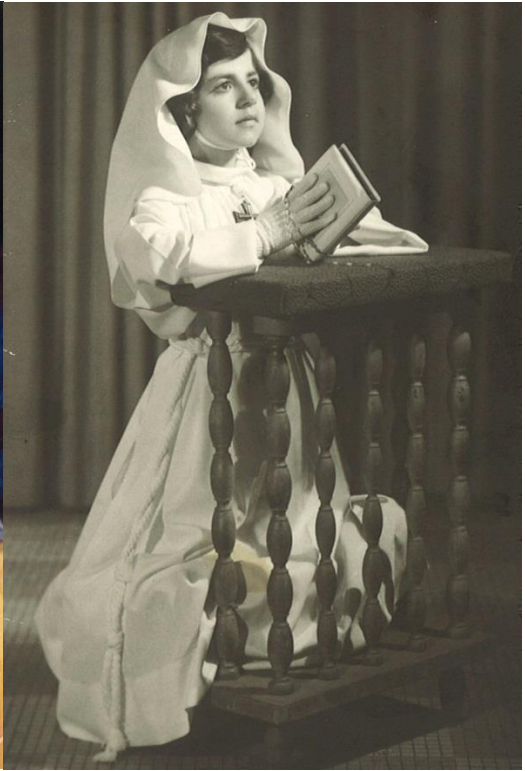


Roy Halim Farah



Halim, Marcel, Roy, Joy





Halim Farah & Wife Marcel; RoRo with wife Hala, son Emil, Daughter Perla below

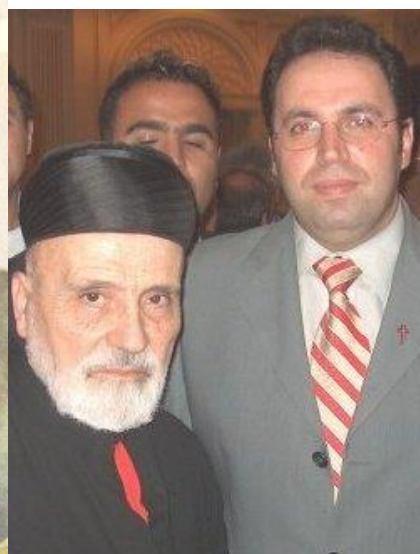




Emile Farah



Nadia Emile Farah



Salma (Harfouche) & her Family (Edy & Karen); Pierre & our Patriarch



Aunt Nadia – they don't make them like this anymore



Emil & Nadia's wedding: best man brother George, Maid of honor sister Linda;



Grandpa Salim far left

NUHAD FADLALLAH'S CREW

Aunt Nuhad (RIP) and husband Butros Issa (RIP, manager at Casino du Liban), daughters Christina, Alexandra, and Suzie in Kfour, Kesrwan. Christina is a school administrator, Suzie a top Anesthesia professional.



Uncle Butros with Pierre, Alexandra, Suzie, Christina



Aunt Nuhad and Butros Issa



Nuhad with Mom in Kfour house



Aunt Nuhad



Alexandra & husband f. Ghanem



Nuhad & Christina



Pierrot son of Alexandra, with Sandra



Alexandra & Suzanne; Baby Christine below





Aunt Nuhad



Pierre, Rayen & Robin, sons of Alexandra, with Mira



Elie Abi Gerges & mom Suzie



Peter Ghanem, genius, musician, bon-vivante – Aunt Nuhad still lives

FARES BUTROS IBRAHIM'S FAMILY



Fares Butros



Butros Fares



Grandpa Butros with me & my brothers; Cousin Pierre 2nd from left

Grandpa Butros, my Dad's uncle, so skinny his name became a symbol of small stature, and his famous English test for us: "say Run Mouse Run, cause if you don't Run, the Cat will Catch You", which he learnt from Australian soldiers in WWII at their Chtaura Hotel stops near Zahle. When we learnt enough English to say it, we discovered he didn't know what it meant ☺. His Wife Adibi, Emm Fares, lived close to 100 yrs old, caretaker of memories in her house behind Grandpa's.



Butros Fares Butros Ibrahim Fares Ghosn

Uncle Fares (RIP), with sisters Yvonne and Marcel (RIP), our closest family, with Fares a business partner of uncle Hafiz in the early days. Fares's son Butros a promising young man, now working as an engineer in Lebanon.



Yvonne (with Aunt Linda)



Nadia with Marcel (right)



Butros with mom Antoinette and dad Fares; Grandpa Butros Below





Butros Fares Butros Ibrahim Fares Ghosn

KHATTAR NAUFAL'S FAMILY

Grandpa Khattar (my Mom's dad), tall and imposing, a gentle man finally felled by a leg injury (my first experience with bolted knees, a deadly infectious threat in those days). His wife Adele (died in Childbirth), with seven kids, Asa'ad, Laurice, Alice, Minerva, Adele, Renee, Rachidi. His sister Tamini married to Bmaryem (the Achkar clan).

Aunt Rachidi and Aunt Rene (RIP), married to the Northern shore of Berbara, tough women and their children we spent many days with by the sea. Rachidi now fighting Parkinson's disease, but still has her iron grip from years of hard work now forgotten by softer times. Khattar's daughters also included Minerva (my mom), Adele (m. Yaacoub; named after her mom who died in childbirth), Alice (m. Rachid AJ, lived in the Maska Church house in summer), and Laurice (m. Abdo Sleiman). Khattar's only son Asaad, but then, what a son ☺!! Khattar's brothers Khater (in Argentina, son Edward a general) & Monsignor Butros.



**Jiddi
Khattar
and
Asaad
bil Haqli**

RACHIDI'S CLAN



Rachidi



Therese Rachidi & Daughter



Edmund Nader/Tannous (RIP) & Farid Nader/Tannous (Rachidi's son)



Therese with husband Jean Nadde and Daughters



Sandra & Eva with Aunt Rachidi

Rachidi's kids include son Farid, and daughters Therese and Marcelle.



Farid with wife Pauline & sons Eddy & Kevin

**Adele,
?, Mom,
Rachidi
; Baby
Therese
in full
costum**



Marcel



ALICE'S CLAN



Cousin Samir Rachid, with Eva Salim Sami and Kiko Salim Rachid



Rochdi Samir Rachid (with Sami Elie Sami)



Salim Rashid



Kiko Salim



Salim Kiko Salim



Salim (RIP) & wife Siham



Mario Samir Rachid (Marioutien ☺) & wife



Aunt Alice & Samira



**Sisters: Mono (Minerva), Laurice, Adele, Alice; Aimee
in between**

Alice's kids include Samir (wife Juliette, sons Rochdi & Mario, Daughter Roula), Salim (wife Siham, son Christian), and Samira (husband Tony Hanna).

RENEE'S CLAN



Ramzi Mansour Assaf



Nadine, Ramzi & Fouad Assaf



Fadia, husband & daughters at Toti's first communion Renee Izabella (Fadi) Assaf
Renee's kids: Mansour (Kids Ramzi, Fouad, Nadine), Fadi (daughter Renee in Australia), George, Fadia (Daughters Marianne & Christina).





Cousins: Tony Abdo Sleiman, Fadi (Rene) Assaf, Tony Sami

**Renee, George,
Fadia, Fouad
Assaf**

**Mansour & wife
Sylvana**





Rene Izabella Assaf, bint Fadi, & her family in Australia



The great Salim Naufal, My Mom's uncle. In World War one, almost 100 years ago, when one third of Maska's people perished from Small Pox, and everyone was afraid to be infected from touching the dead, he single-handedly buried 50 people in a remote part of Kherbet. I am named after both him and my father uncle Salim (who went to Argentina).

ASSAD KHATTAR & FAMILY



Joe Sami, Khali Asaad, Joseph el-Harf, Tony Sami



Assad, Tony Asaad & Simon (Carla) Simon below



Uncle Asaad in youth - H7ertek Mertek Ho ☺- Asaad with Adele



Carine & Simon



Mia



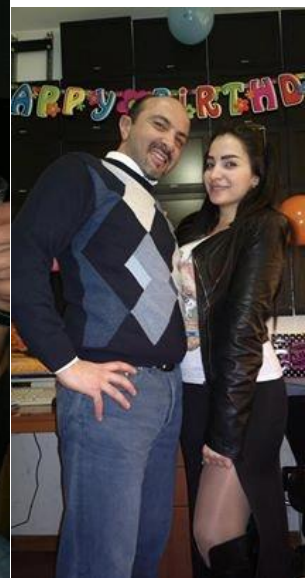
Tony Asaad (Karime's favorite) with Eva



Khattar, Florence, Asaad



Tony Asa'ad





Khatarr Asa'ad & wife



Mia Asa'ad (with Tony Emile & Greta)

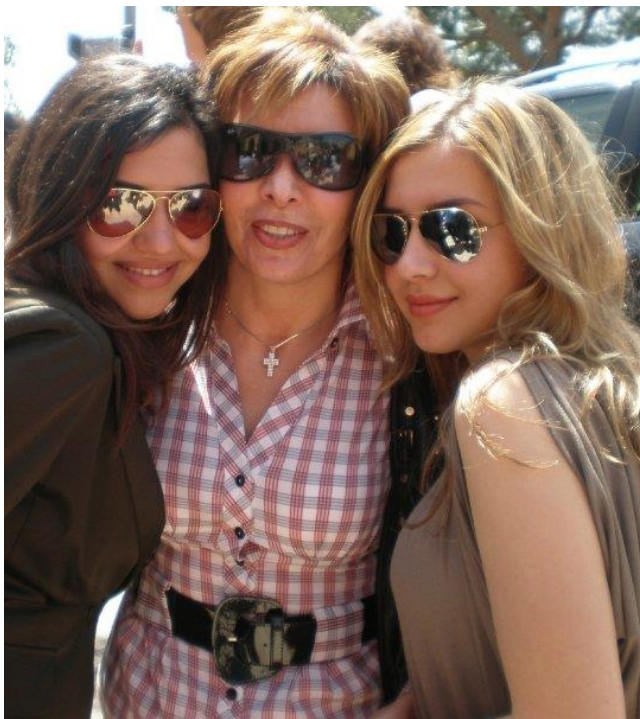
Assad's wife Andre; Kids: Sons Khatarr, Tony; Daughters Florence (Frulance to Asaad ☺; m. Jean Yammine), Carla (Lallia to Asaad ☺; husband Simon Semaan), Dolly (m. Fadi Youssef), Mia (m. Elie Choueiry). Uncle Asaad famous for his tall stories and good singing voice. Khatarr's kids include Don Christ, Karl/Don Carl & Christa Reine.



Jean Yammine



Florence Yammine (bint Asa'ad Khattar)



Carla & Daughters Natasha & Carinne



Christa Reine Khattar



Mia, Stephanie, Elie, Steven Choueiry



Andre & Tony at Rita's daughter Engagement party



Don Christ Khattar



Karl Khattar



Carine, Natasha & Simon Simon (Carla's kids)



Jack Yammine, son of Florence Asa'ad Khattar



Florence, Carla, Dolly, Khattar, Mia

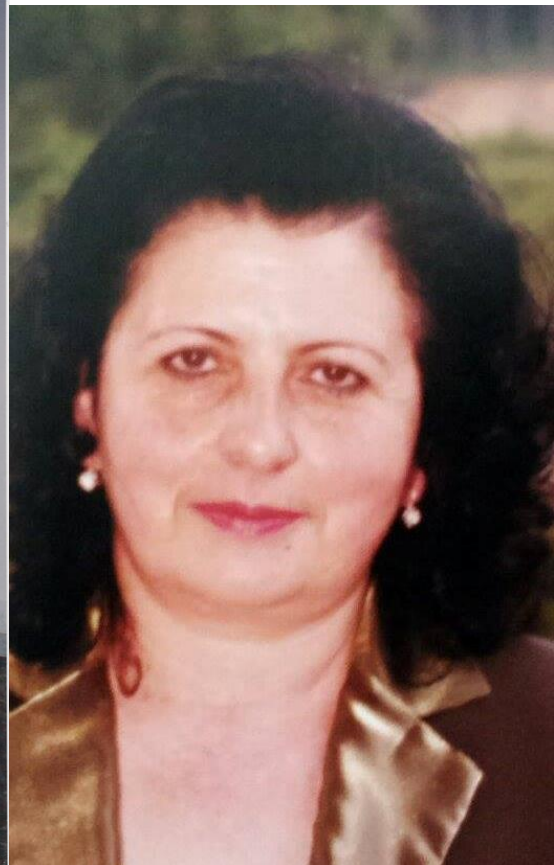


**Asaad's
wife
Andre,
daughter
of Ayyoub.
Kids:
Khattar,
Tony,
Florence,
Mia, Dolly,
Carla**

Mono and Asaad, and his trademark "Ho"



Mia & Family; Dolly & Family below; Andre



ABDO SLEIMAN & LAURICE KHATTAR'S FAMILY

Uncle Abdo Sleiman, my wife's dad, and his stories of old Viziers and Kings always entrancing, his sweets awaited by the kids in the village. His habit of writing memoirs preserved many stories of the old times, his "will" to his daughters something to treasure.

Abdo's kids include Tony (el Harf) in Lebanon, Joseph and Sleiman (NJ, USA), Daughter Juliette wife of Samir Rachid, Antoinette (previously in US), and my wife Karime in New Jersey.



Uncle Hafiz & Uncle Abdo Sleiman; Alice, Gilbert, Laurice & Karime

Grandpa Butros, my Wife's uncle, a character, master of backgammon and Trumps (only trumped by his brother Abdo's insane bets that always seemed to work – of course scratching his head while showing his cards to his partner didn't hurt ☺).



The Clan: Uncle Abdo, Rolla, Joe, Ghassan, Sleiman, Karime, Joe, Uncle Butros; Therese, Aimee, Raymond, Tony, Rochdi)



Uncle Butros Sleiman



Daughter Gilbert



Teta Laurice with Eva, Sammy, Maya, Sandoura



Juliette, Karime; and Marie-Claire Chocair



Laurice -“Shakra” with Tony



Mario Samir (Juliette)



Rochdi Samir (Juliette)



Antoinette

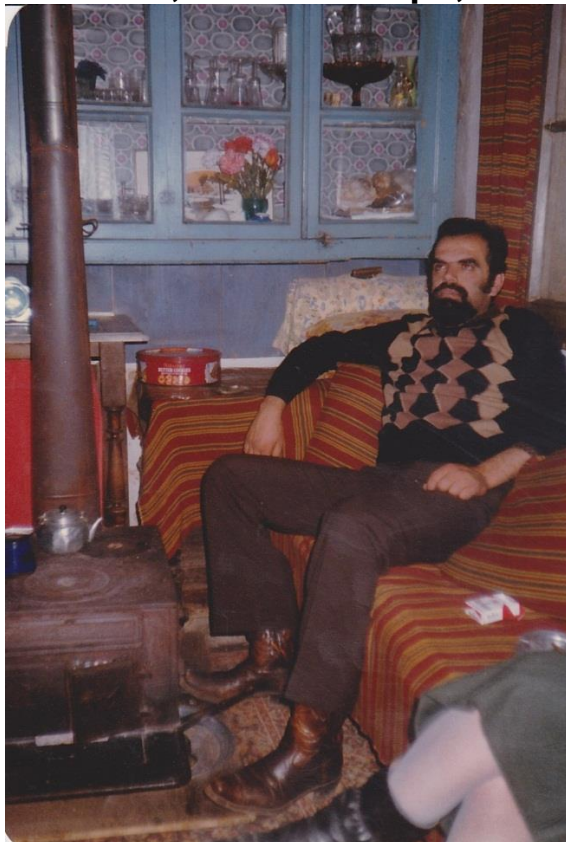
TONY ABDO SLEIMAN (EL HARF)



Tony el Harf & Family- wife Therese, daughters Antoinette, Christina, Marianne (Mari-One, Chris-Tani and Tloti ☺ - yes Marianne?)



Christina, Elissar Joseph, Marianne and Toti; Tony wel Babour below





Joseph, with wife Sandra, & kids



Joe, wife Sandra, kids: Melkart, Alexander, Alissar, Baltazar; Ishtar





Sandra Joseph with Kids in New Jersey Park

SLEIMAN ABDO SLEIMAN FAMILY



Solomon (Sleiman) & daughter Zena (Foster)



Zena Sleiman (Foster) with Jennifer and Karime



Sleiman & wife Mireille (Ojail)

Sleiman a contractor in New Jersey. His daughter Zena lives in New Hampshire (bayya Hamshary kamaan ☺). Grandpa Sleiman below.



BEIT AMIN SALIM NAUFAL



Salim Amin & wife Fairuz; Joseph Amin below



Amin's kids include Fawzi (RIP) (his Children George, Naila, Nada in London; Daughter Najwa died from a shell wound during the war); his flute playing legendary; Raymond (RIP) (kids: Tony, Johnny, Gladys (m. Jean Atallah)); Salim (Brummana Boutique, daughter Joanna, wife Fairuz, sister of Akl's wife Vida); Joseph (ex-IBM director), Amal wife of Mukhtar George Amin; Jacqueline wife of Jamil Rustum in Kherbe, Francoise (married Joseph el-Sheikh; son Elie now in Beit Meri), and Raymonda (m. Sami Barakat). Amin's wife Fahimi is my mom's maternal aunt (being the sister of grandma Adele Ghaleb, "Khalo" Edmond Ghaleb, and Chafica in Zalka).



Naila Fawzi's son Roy- London; Amal Amin; Raymond Amin below (right)





Naila Fawzi



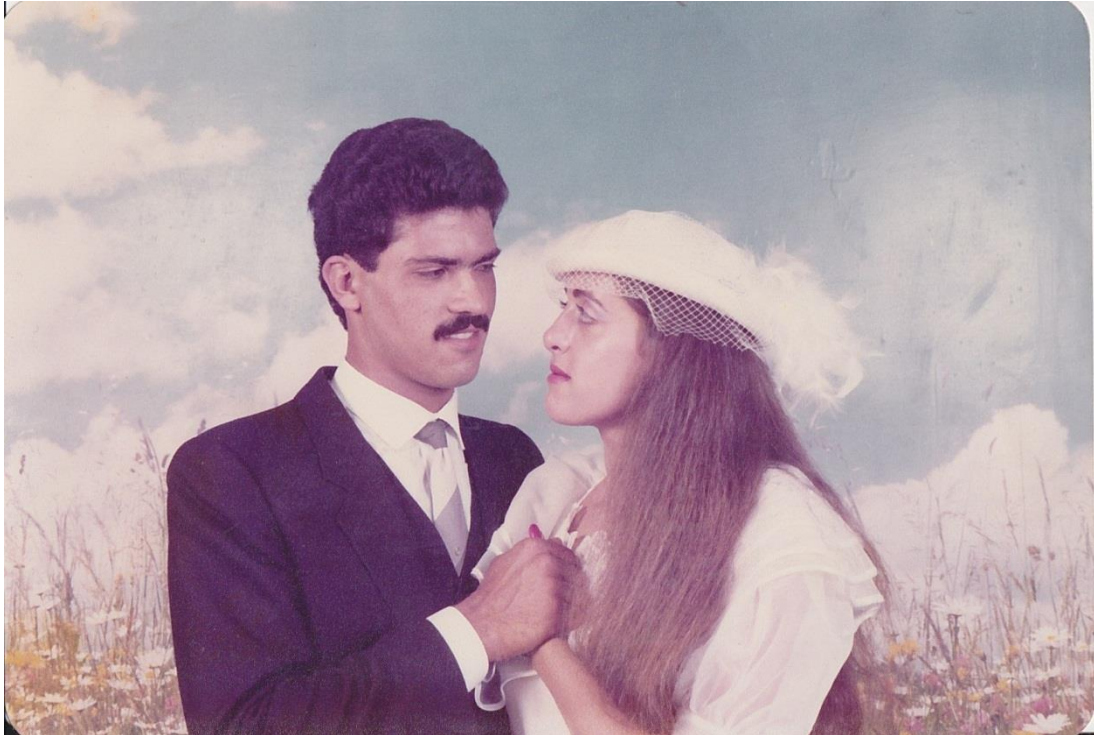
Nada Fawzi



Nada & Naila with Karime in London



George Fawzi



Nada Fawzi & husband Mashhour (“famous” ☺)



Roy ibn Nayla



Naila & George in London



Uncle Fawzi, Aunt Badia, with Nayla; Crooning below





Fawzi & Badia; with Bilal, Najwa's son below





Fawzi & Badia's Clan- kids Nayla, Najwa, Nada & George



Jiddi Amin Naufal



George with Fawzi & Badia



Grandma Emm-Edmond (Khalo Edmond); with Najwa on her left; Elie & Marianne (Francoise's kids) in front; at Yolla Eid's first communion

BEIT RAYMOND AMIN



Raymond



Tony Raymond & Fiancee



Rose, Raymond's wife



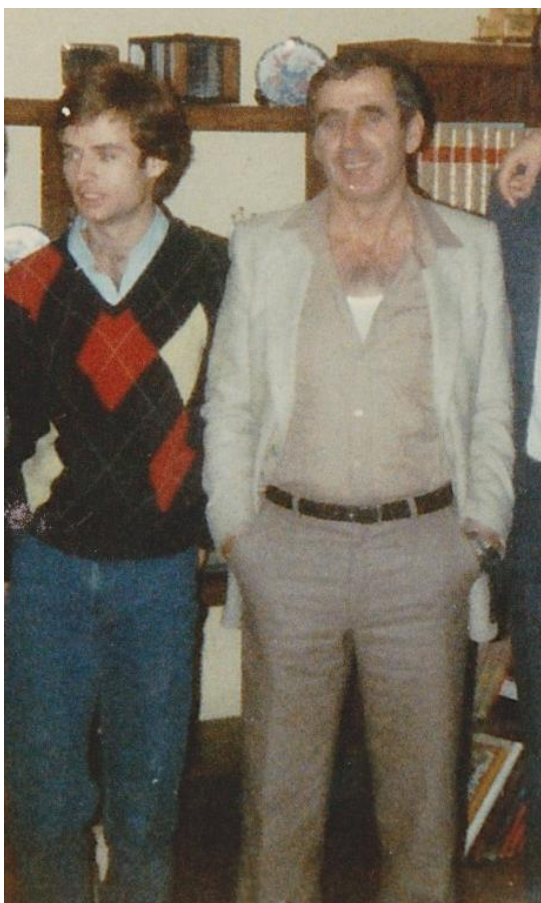
Johnny Raymond and Family



Samara (Nayla's Daughter)



Gladys (Raymond's daughter)



Elie Sheikh ibn Francoise (with Salim Amin)



Francoise



Raymonda



George, Nayla & Amal



Michel Ne'3emtallah



Elie Michel



Anias



George Ne'emtallah

Beit Ne'emtallah, of the Abu-Abdalla clan, include Michel, George and Anias (RIP) & Michel's son Elias. Anias was a fun character, gone too soon.



EMILE YOUSSEF SEMAAN & SIHAM FADLALLAH'S FAMILY



Raymond, Tony, Richo (+Blanche & Margo Adeeb)–Emile+ Siham



Raymond & Kids – Charles, Mathieu et Julie



Richo



Aunt Siham's Wedding; to right Semaan, Zahia and Linda; Nadia left



Uncle Emile, Siham, & Kids; Also showing Henry's Kids

Uncle Emile's (RIP) kids include Raymond (chief Civil Engineer in Paris), Richard (entrepreneur, Paris), Tony (you name it, Lebanon), and Roland (Electronics, Lebanon). You don't mess with those tigers – Tony's kids bit

their dog when he annoyed them – the dog is seeing a psychiatrist now ☺. Aunt Siham's specialty for her favorite nephew: Sharab el Tout ☺. Cousin Tony is "The Wild One", with his trick-a-minute style, convincing fellow workers that the Tiles they were cleaning would melt in the bathtub where they had put them, getting them to quickly dry them one by one, thankful no damage was done (except to their unwitting pride).



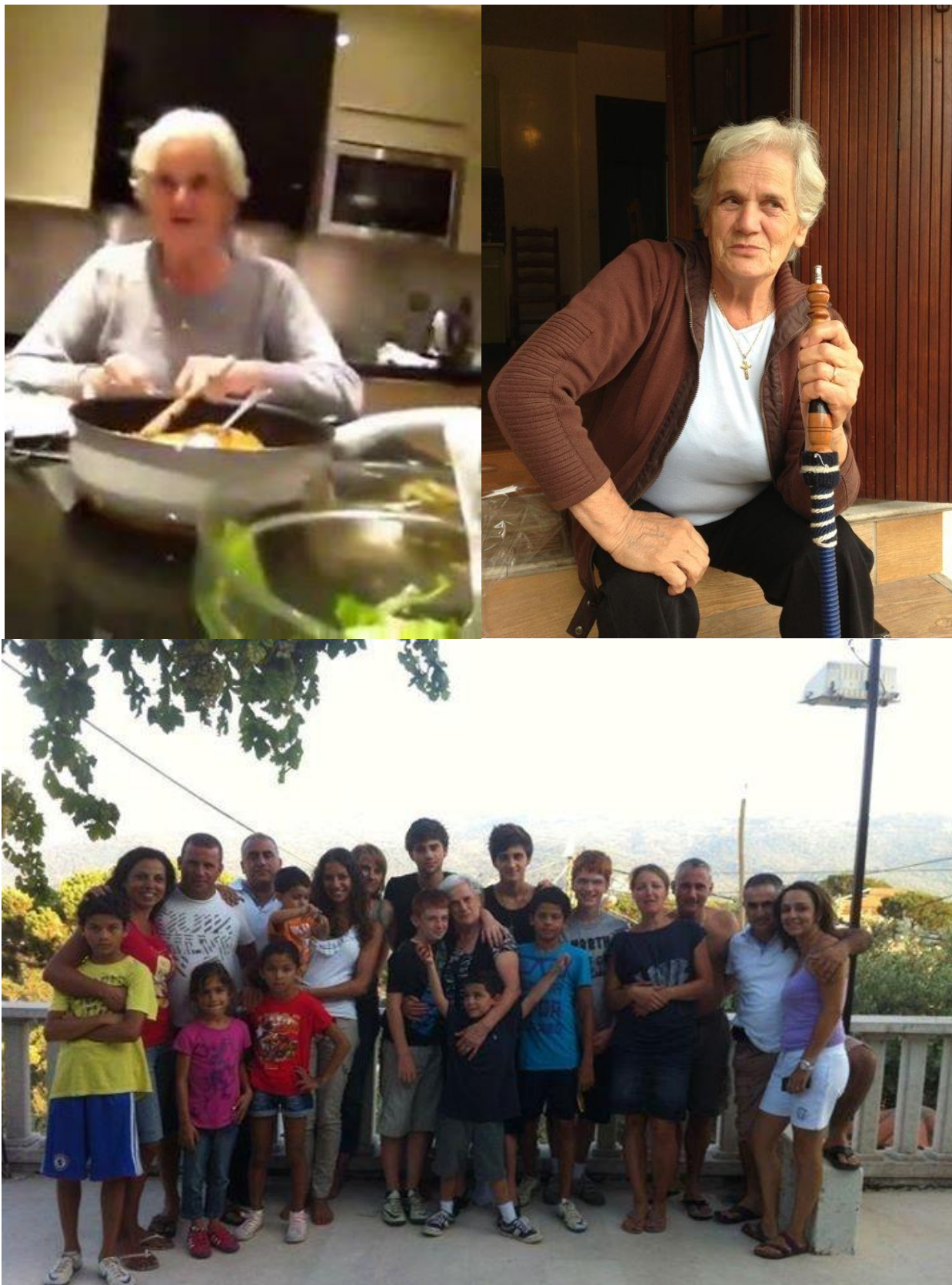
Toni, Richo, Raymond, Roro; Roland's Gang below; grandma Melvina





Richo & Raymond in Paris; Uncle Emile (RIP) below





"Sousou" above; The Whole Clan in the Maska house



Four Tigers



3amti Sousou (Siham)



Ricardo, Julie & Emilio -Trois Jolie, Tres Jolie, Trop Julie ☺





Siham & Grandkids – Julie, Mathieu et (☺ keef?) Charles Raymond



Raymond & Corinne's Brood in Paris



Charles est bien, mais Mathieu est mieux ☺; avec Jolie Julie



Abu-I-Reem with Haifa Wehbi; young Julie & Mathieu; Charles below



BEIT TONY EMILE



Rayess Tony; Tony's crowd below





Tony's Tigers





New Gang – Hope rekindled; Katharina & Emilio below





Tony & Greta, with Catherina



Emilio Tony Emil Youssef Semaan

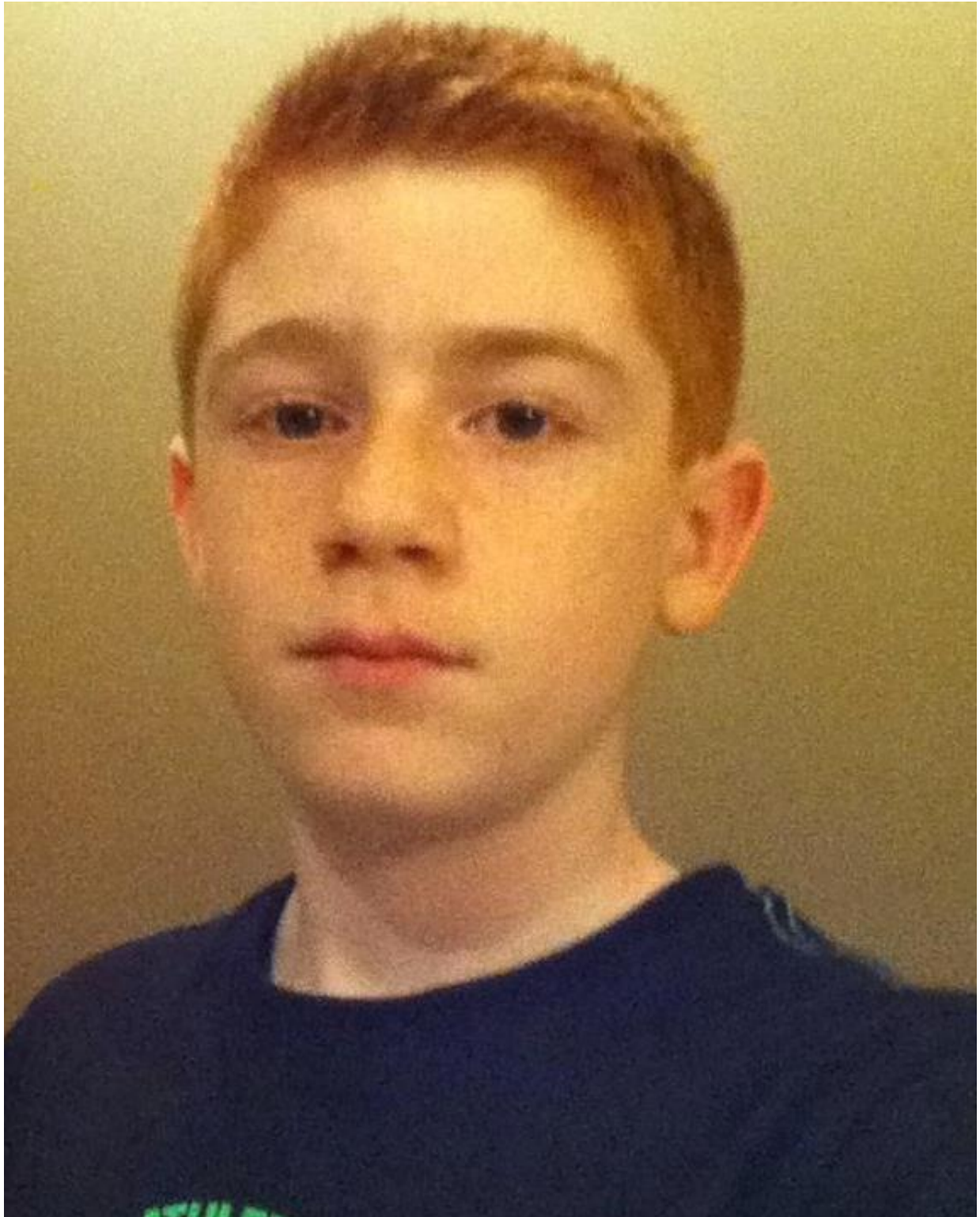


Ricardo Tony Emile Youssef Semaan



Richo & wife Sophie; beautiful Clara below





Thomas Richo Emile Youssef Semaan



Jan Richard Emile Youssef Semaan



Petit Yann



Petit Yann, Thomas et Clara



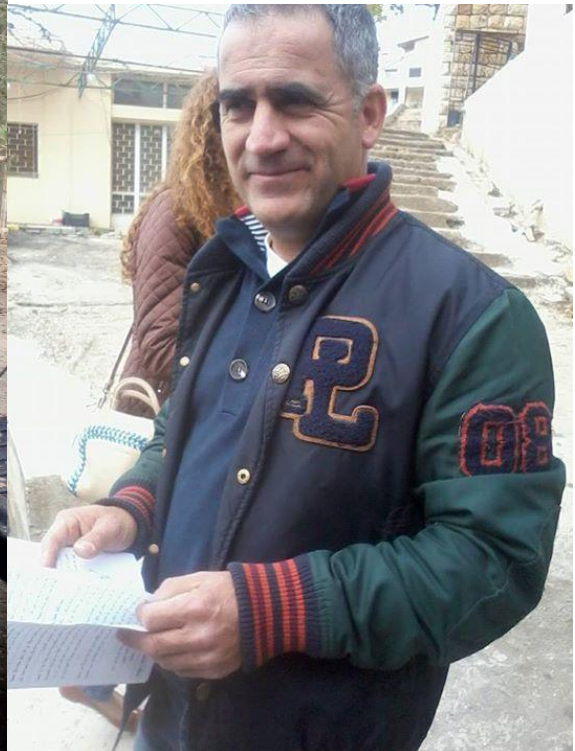
Saar 3enna Roro Zghir Tani – Bas 3a A7hla ☺



Roro's brood – wife Fadia, sons Anthony and Chris



Roland, Fadia, & Zakroush ☺



SEMAAN YOUSEF SEMAAN

Uncle Semaan, a dynamo in his Eighties, running us ragged while touring the US trying to keep up with his energy and drive. I remember him during a visit with us to the Statue of Liberty, in his eighties, going up and down the stairs, while us younger “softies” stayed behind. He swam daily in Tabarja beach, even in cold weather.

His Church service was memorable, not least for cutting it short when in a hurry ☺, driving Abouna Najib crazy. His voice was magnificent. His Kids all superstars: Charbel runs a major Architecture firm (and the Maska Club); Salim a well known Doctor in Indiana; Edward a renowned Eye Doctor in Delaware. Daughters Blanche (married to Khalil Farid in Florida), Marie-Reine (married to Dr Elie Hasbani).



Uncle Semaan (RIP)



Georgette & Semaan



Aunt Georgette; Edward



Marie-Reine Semaan & husband Elie Hasbani



Whole Clan at their 50th Wedding Anniversary



Salim Semaan's Daughters Christina and Maria



With Salim Semaan (Smiee – namesake ☺) in New Jersey



Salim with wife Zena and Daughters Maria and Christina



Simon Salim Semaan (with Toto, Elie Sami & Edward Semaan)



Pulmonary Medicine

Dr. Abou Jaoude is board certified in Sleep Medicine, Internal Medicine, Critical Care Medicine, Pulmonary Disease. His specialties include Sleep Medicine, Sleep Disorders & Critical Care Medicine.

Dr. Salim Abou Jaoude is an internist in Lafayette, Indiana. He received his medical degree from American University of Beirut Faculty of Medicine and has been in practice for 29 years.

Salim Semaan Abou Jaoude MD, FCCP

BEIT CHARBEL SEMAAN



Charbel Beik



Charbel Semaan



Charbel & wife Rebecca Nasr

Charbel is our energetic village leader, running the Tawiyat wal Intilaq club, and organizing activities for the kids. He is a respected business leader as well, running a major architecture firm employing many from the neighborhood. His new Olive Farm in the Bekaa is also a novel approach for Lebanon agriculture.

He is very active also in the Aboujaoude Association, representing Maska, and organizing the annual picnic in Deir el Harf attended by thousands, as well as participating in our USA Picnic, and helping our Aboujaoude brethren in Syria, Jordan, Africa and elsewhere connect.



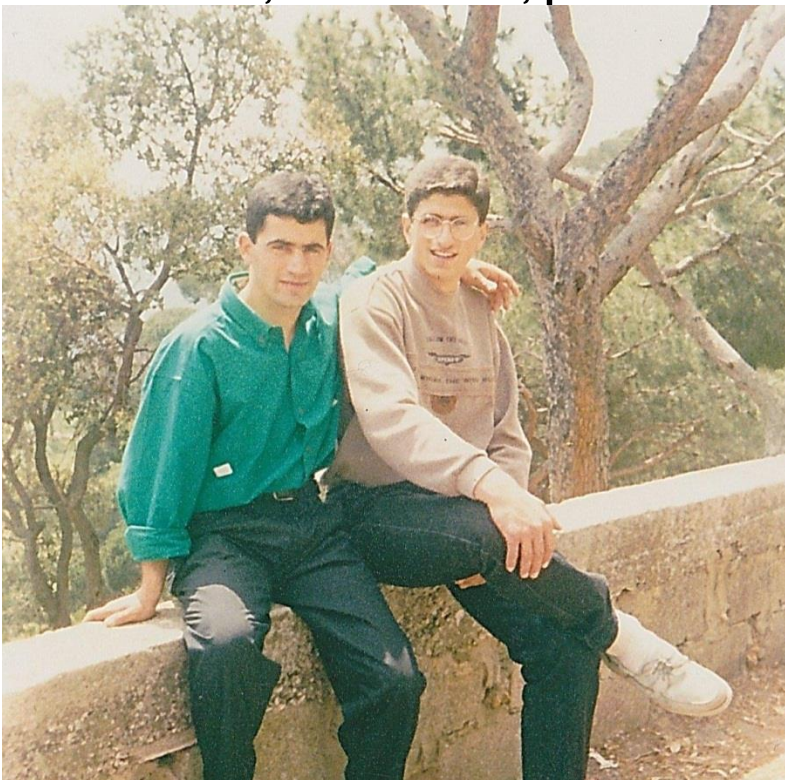
Marc & Lara's Baptism



Charbel, wife Rebecca Nasr, Marc & Lara



Edward, wife Mireille, parents Georgette & Semaan



Edward is a famous Eye Surgeon in the Delaware, USA, winner of many awards. He is very generous with his support for family in need, and a dynamic friend indeed. Wife Mireille Rayess, and three daughters.

Young Edward with Roland



Edward & Mireille



Lea, Mireille, Mia, Edward, Serena ; Princesses below



BEIT ADEEB YOUSSEF SEMAAN

Uncle Adib's & Tant Labibi's (RIP) kids: Joseph (PhD professor at AUB); Pierre (Hotel Management, Dubai); Daughters Blanche (Charbel Toufic's wife); Margo, Gladys & Rima (Abdalla Romanos' wife in Florida, USA).



Adeeb's Kids - Gladys, Rima, Margo, Pierre, Blanche, Joseph



A3mmi Adeeb (RIP)

Margo



Gladys Adeeb



Blanche Adeeb



Tant Labibi; at Rima's wedding





Gladys family (right), Blanche center with Tant Siham



Beit Adeeb Bldg; Beit Mikhail left

BEIT PIERRE ADIB



Pierre Adeeb



Pierre Adeeb & Family

BEIT JOSEPH ADIB



Our young Dynamo Adeeb Joseph & wife Elyssa (bint George AbouRadi, from Jourat, a good BHS friend)



Joseph Adib & wife Daad



Joe Adib Joseph Adib



Marianne & Danielle with Adib; with their parents below





Anne Karim Jaude & Gabrielle Carlos



Karim



Gisele Karim

Uncle Karim's son Carlos runs a computer business in Texas. Uncle Karim runs a successful real-estate business in Los Angeles. Karim well known in Lebanon & abroad for his major contributions as our first business superstar in the village, of Crazy Horse, Cosmos fame among others.



Karim & Family



Karim & Carlos



Isabelle Carlos



Carlos & wife Mary



Karim's family with Antoinette's family in California

Uncle Karim has worked in Lebanon, Iran (Kish Island Casinos in the Shah's days), and now is doing big real-estate business in Los-Angeles, California. His Crazy Horse night-club was a famous hangout of the famous and well-connected elite; his Marrouche restaurants a house-hold name. He employed many from the village, and helped many in the US. He was always a gentleman's gentleman- a leader, entrepreneur, and family man.



Mr Cool, aka Karim Youssef Semaan
Crazy Horse, Lucky Luke, Cosmos, Marrouche, Beirut, Iran, California

BEIT MAURICE YOUSSEF SEMAAN



Marwan Maurice (right), with Carlos Karim



Marc Maurice Jaude



Maude & mom Josephine

Uncle Maurice's kids include Marwan in Lebanon, and Marc in Boston, US, who runs a multi-national computer company (PM-Web) employing many in Lebanon and the US. Daughters Mouna, Maha, Mirna & Maude.



Marwan's family (wife Mimo, son Mike, with Tony Siham's kids)



Marc & Mike Marwan Maurice



Uncle Maurice



Mouna Maurice AJ ; Maude & Marc below





Uncle Maurice (RIP), good time man, with Aunt Josephine

BEIT ANTOINETTE YOUSSEF SEMAAM – MAROUN

Aunt Antoinette lives in California with daughter Carole and son Charles, an executive in his cousin Marc's PM-Web company. I remember her son Bernard (RIP), on non-stop joke fests on Uncle Emile's stairs, before his tragic death.



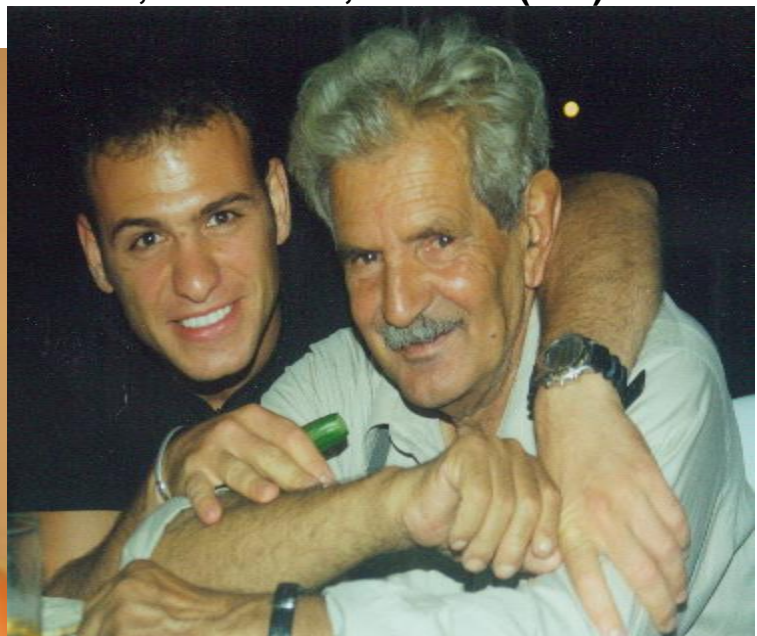
Charles Maroun ibn Antoinette



Carole (bint Antoinette) Maroun-Aboujaoude & husband Imad



Charles with mom, wife & kids; Antoinette, Bernard (RIP) below





“Estaz” Elias, with Nadia & Hafiz



Philippe (Picon ☺), 3ammi (Uncle) Boulos and 3ammi Nassif

Nodding off early a famous trademark – a story told about uncle Boulos and brother Nassif lugging a heavy box from Jounieh on the shore to their house in the mountain. Boulos: “Nassif, you just carry the box from Jounieh to Brummana, and I will carry it all the way from Brummana to Ghabeh,

from Ghabeh to Chehhara (Mary statue), from Chehhara to Dekkan Abou Amin, and from Dekkan Abou Amin home”. Nassif jumps at this proposal, and proceeds to carry the load the 18 miles up the mountain to Brummana, while Boulos carries it downhill the ½ mile to their home, passing all the minute stations he had enumerated ☺.



Vida wife of Akl; Akl (with Fairuz, Vida’s sister, wife of Salim Amin)



Me3allem Akl



“Estaz” Elias & Anis



Anis’s wife Marie



“Beno” (Bernadette)



Nassif Elias Tanios

Uncle Nassif's kids: "Estaz" Elias (teacher, partly at our erstwhile village school), Akl (Carpentry), Anis (Telephones), and sister "Beno" (married to Ghosn (RIP) from Jall-elDib).



Uncle Boulos on the right; Henry & Mimo left



Tony son of Beno & Ghosn



Bernadette (Beno) & Ghosn ; Grandma Amalia below at our wedding



BEIT ANIS NASSIF



Caroline & Paul Anis



Caroline, with husand Karim Haddad & son Marc



Boulos



Caroline



Anis's Daughters, Patricia & Amalia, with Maya



Patricia, Anis, Paul & Marc. Marc's new brother Karl below



Anis (with Butros Hanna); that's where we get the reputation ☺



Paul Anis Nassif



Akl with Amalia, Anis & Paul





Patricia Anis & her Mom Marie



Amalia & Caroline Anis



Anis's kids: son Paul; Three daughters (Caroline, Patricia, Amalia)



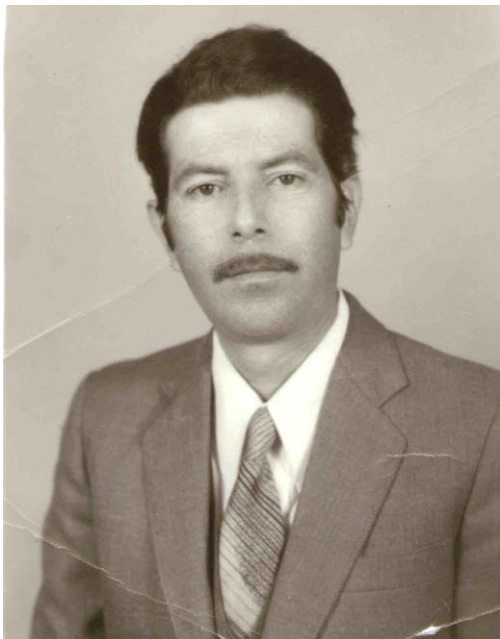
Anis with his Grandkids

BEIT BUTROS TOUBIA



Fouad George Fouad

Butros Toubia & wife Nassibi's kids include: Fouad (RIP) (Children Joseph, George, Tony, Josephine, Nawal, Amal); Samir (RIP), Joseph (RIP); Farid (RIP); Najla (RIP); Sheik Munir, real estate mogul and village leader, with son Pierre;



Joseph Butros



Samir Butros

Bottom:
Nassibi
and
Boutros
Toubia,
with kids
Badih (in
hands),
Fouad,
Farid,
Najla; Top
left:
Souad
Metri
sister of
Raji (head
of Roffle
Clan in
Buffalo &
Nassibi's
father);
bottom
left: Raji &
Margaret
Jones



Left:
Nassibi
with all
her kids,
Fouad
(his son
Joseph's
lookalike)
, Farid
(son
Jaode's
lookalike)
, Badih,
Samir,
Joseph;
Muneer,
Najla





Badih & Farid, Church behind them Badih, Nassibi & Farid, Eid Mar Takla 1954



Samir and Bride



Najla and her mother



Joseph and Samira

BEIT FOUAD BOUTROS TOUBIA



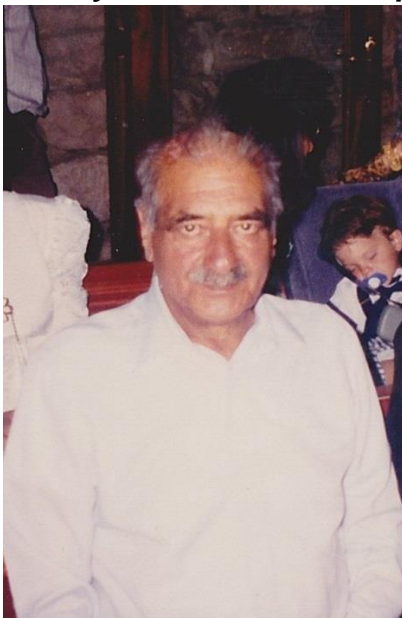
Tony Fouad



Josephine Saliba (bint Fouad)



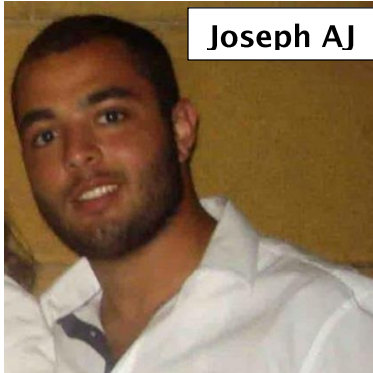
Amale el Hajj (bint Fouad)



Uncle Fouad



Joseph with son Charbel, & Elie Hage (son of sister Amal)



Joseph AJ

Uncle Fouad lived in the family home (Beit Butros Toubia, at the entrance to Maska). His son Joseph, a good friend, also lived in an apartment nearby (Benayet Munir – one of many his uncle Munir built in Maska) – he passed away last year. Fouad's grandson, Fouad, now works in Dubai. The name lives on.



George Fouad

FARID BUTROS TOUBIA & ANGEL'S FAMILY

Uncle Farid, house right next to Church, his kids our friends in Lebanon and US (Kamal, Jaoude, Khalil, Elie (at ATT), Therese). You can't find better people.



Kamal & Elie



Kamal Beik



Tant Angel (left) with Samir's wife Laila



Uncle Farid, Elias, Christian (Elie's kids), Angel

Uncle Farid's kids include Kamal, owner of Buffalo's largest printing company; Jaoude, a senior Manager in New Hampshire; Khalil, a senior Manager with Siemens in Florida; Elie, a manager at IBM in New Jersey; and Therese, a senior manager with Xerox in Rochester, New York. Aunt Angele is now in Rochester as well. Elie's son (Elias Farid) is studying law in the UK. Kamal's son is studying Medicine in Buffalo.



Buffalo Clan

Uncle Farid joked with Badih in Buffalo that he should pour concrete for his house in the US (made of wood), before he himself moved into one ☺.



Farid & Angel at their (wood ☺) house in Buffalo; Maska House Below





Khalil, Kamal, Jowdy, with Uncle Karim



Buffalo Kids (left)



Ashraf el Nass ☺; with their Mom Angele & Takla Badih below





Farid's Family Tree ☺; Samir's wife on left

BEIT ELIE FARID



Christian & Elias Elie Farid; Elie's Family below





Elias Elie Farid & fiancée Devinn; Elie, Maureen & Christian below





Christian Elie Farid Butros Toubia



Kamal & Colette's gang- Chloe, Peter, Crystal, Patrick



Kamal & Colette

BEIT JAOUDE FARID



Jaoude (Abou 7Halou ☺)



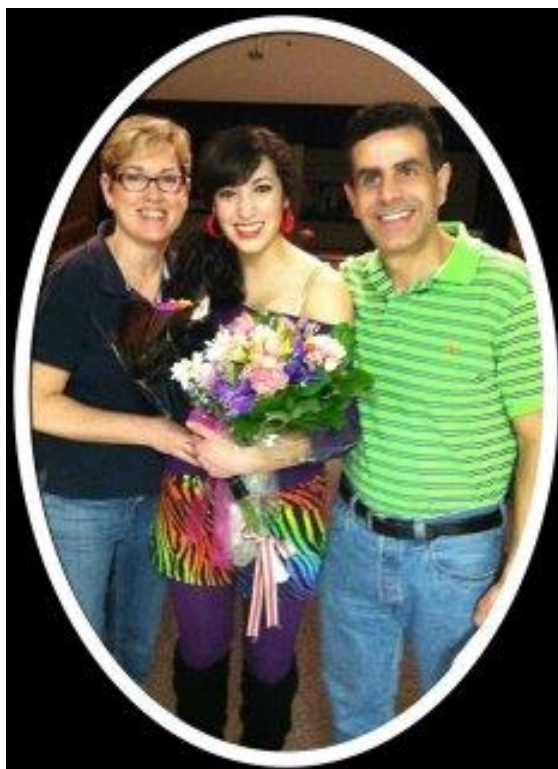
Maria



Jaoude's Clan in New Hampshire (Saar Hampshary min Jadd)



Jaoude's Bunch



Jaoude, Maria & Daughter Veronica; Nicole Therese, Veronica Rachelle, Angela Maria



Khalil & Blanche



Melanie & Michelle



Melanie Khalil





Therese Leni w/Robert & son Frank

Therese is a senior manager at Xerox Corporation in Rochester New York. Her husband Robert Leni is a lawyer.

BEIT BADIH BUTROS TOUBIA



Taqla



Charbel



Badih's Clan (Charbel, Taqla, Aida)

Uncle Badih, the host of Buffalo, is still alive in Charbel's face (now in Dubai), and his daughter Taqla (in NYC). Many from Maska passed thru his house, his generosity and good humor a legend still remembered.



Buffalo crowd: Mom, Uncle Farid, Badih, Angel, Khalil, me, Elie Farid, Maureen, Brother Elie crouching; Badih & Eva below; young Charbel





Seeing Charbel, and seeing Badih – Meen Khallaf ma maat; Young Badih



William “Buck” Roffle, Ruphael Roffle & Badih in Buffalo

BEIT MUNIR BUTROS TOUBIA



Sheikh Munir & wife Aida





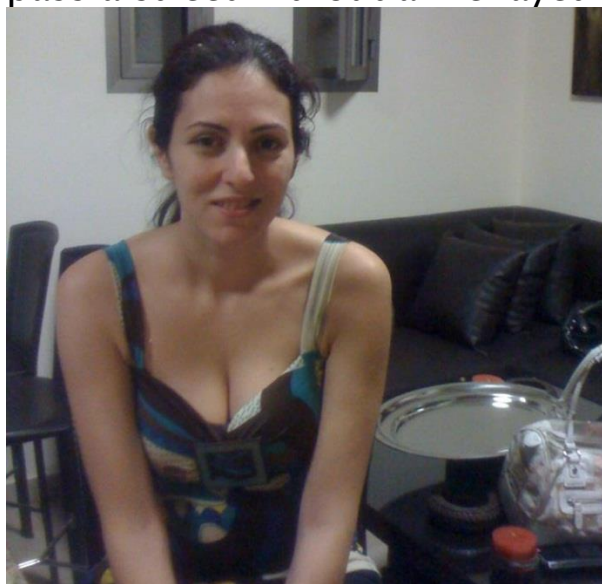
Sheik Munir & his Clan





Pierre Munir (with George Yaacoub left)

Sheikh Munir is an active community leader, helped now by his Kids Pierre & Elie. His Daughters: Marlene married to Alexis Rizkallah, Cosette, Rita, & Fifi married to Marcel Makhoul (RIP). Munir built many building around the village and in the area, and it is hard to pass a street without a “Benayet Munir” 😊.



Cosette Munir



Rita Munir

AUNT NAJLA & MICHEL ABU FADEL'S FAMILY



Elham Michel



Maguy Michel



Charbel, Amal wife of Jihad & their mom Rachidi





Elham, Amale, Layla, Josiane, Rita, Sanaa; Jacqueline & husband below



Aunt Najla (bint Boutros Toubia), married to Uncle Michel from Falougha, has two sons, Adballah and Jihad, and Daughters: Leila (wife of Nazih), Ferial (wife of Nadim Mazloun), Jacqueline, Elham & Maguy.

Aunt Najla went to Buffalo to visit son Abdalla & Uncle Badih there. She passed by us in New Jersey a few times- her kindness and good humor always well remembered. Her son Abdallah was one of the first to follow me to the US (him and Khalil being the next in the new wave of student-

immigrants). Me & Abdallah were the “Camel Jockeys”, according to Uncle Buck (a US replica of Khali Asa’ad ☺), Aunt Rose’s brother in Buffalo.

Abdallah was my companion in those early immigrant days in the US, going to Lebanese conventions all over, including a visit to Olean, where we lost him after the start of the “Hafle” and kept joking he must have gotten “lucky” already, only to find him in the bathroom at the end, Olean food not suiting his stomach ☺.



Aunt Najla – Maguy on left, Elham on right, with Karime; Fayez Klass (Jacqueline’s husband) on far left.



Najla, Munir, Michel



Elham, with daughter Yara & husband Ossama Farid Youssef

BEIT JIHAD MICHEL



Amal, Rita & Elie Jihad



Jihad & son Michel, Daughter Rita

Jihad ibn Tant Najla, known for his love of racing cars, of course ends up with a son that is a racing car champion.



Young Jihad with the whole clan at Jacqueline's wedding

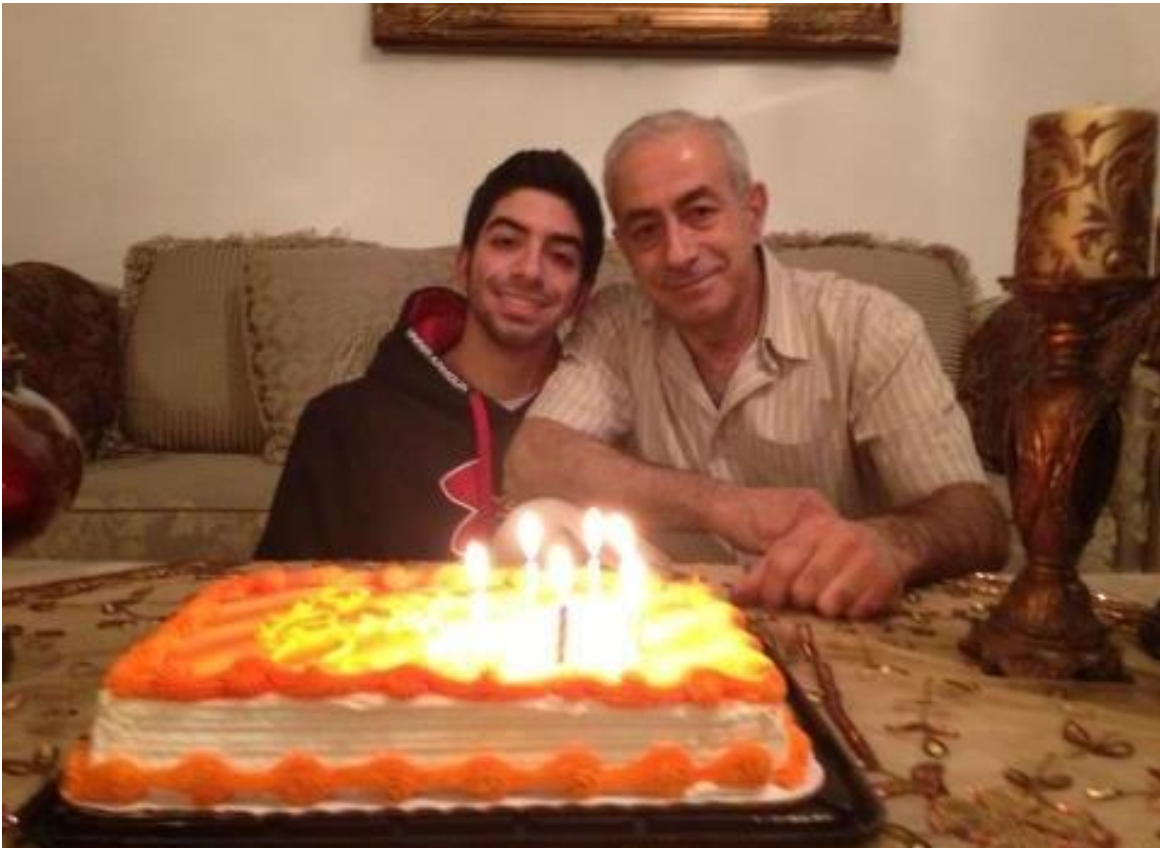


Jihad and his Car



Jihad Michel & Family- wife Amal, daughter Rita, son Michel





Abdallah Ibn Najla with son Elie; Falougha-Maska Tarnib Match





Abdallah's Clan in Buffalo; wife Sanaa, Daughters Josiane & Eliane, son Elie ; Sanaa sister Hanaa & husband Butros Sebaali showing left

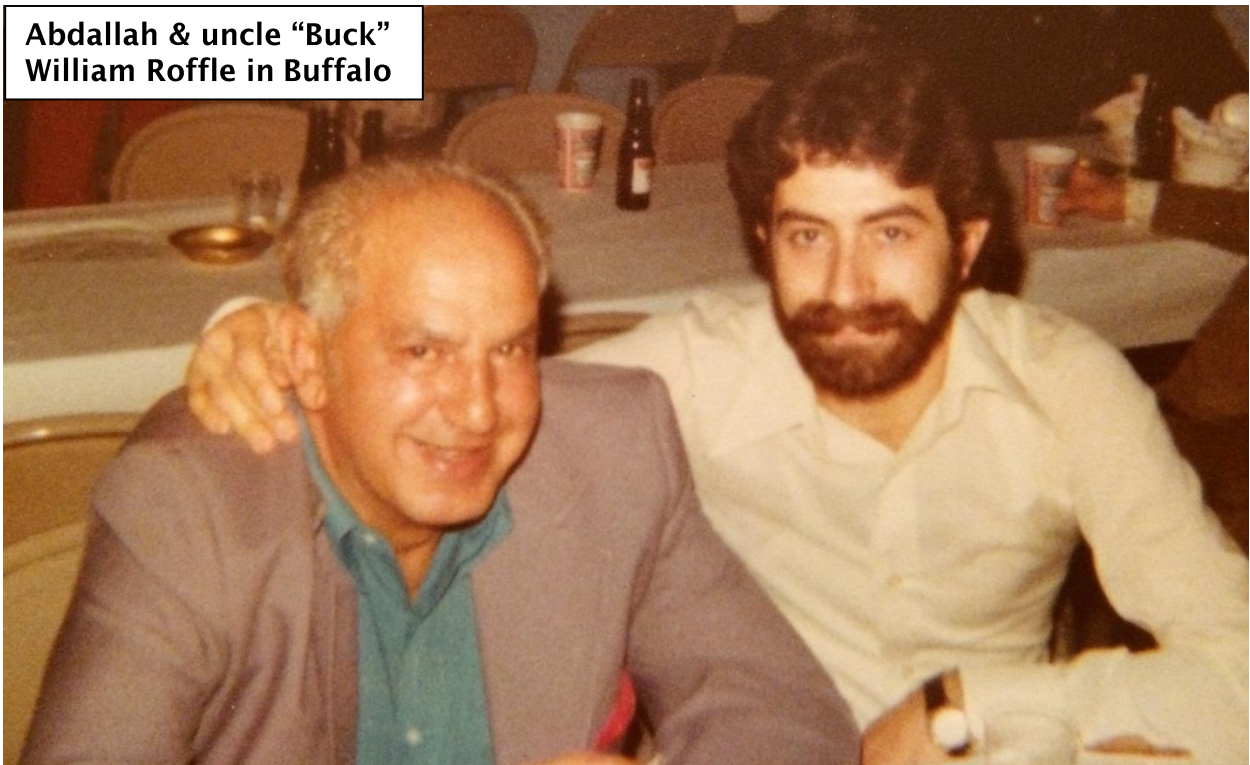


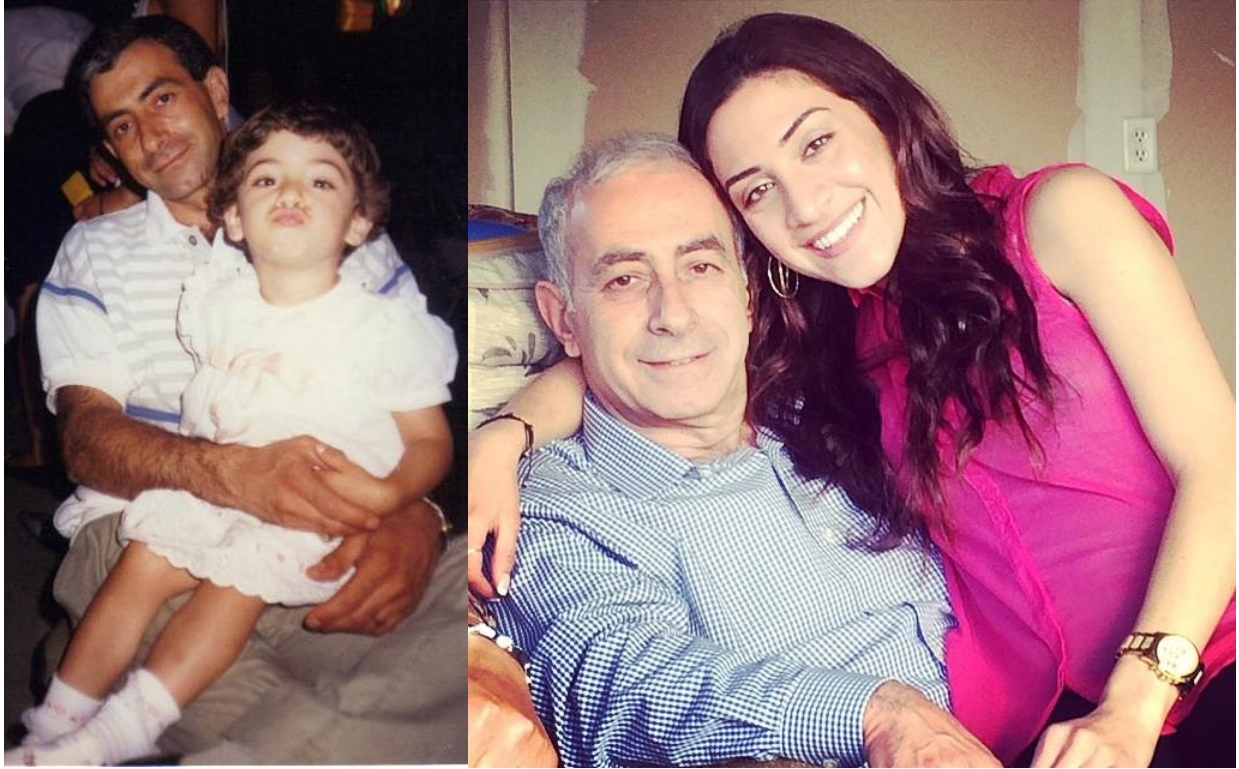
Now and then



Cousins Elie Abdallah Michel & Michel Jihad Michel

**Abdallah & uncle "Buck"
William Roffle in Buffalo**





Younger Days – Then and now



Now its their turn

BEIT NADIM MAZLOUM



Nadim Mazloun & wife Ferial (with Therese)



Nayla Mazloun



Nayla & Mom Ferial (bint Najla & Michel)

Nadim married Ferial, aunt Najla's daughter, and settled in Maska on the road to Oyoun. His son studies now in Buffalo, USA.



Bassam & parents Wissam & Bassam Mazloun below



BEIT BISHARA SASSINE & EMILY KHOURY

Uncle Bishara & Tant Emily's kids include Elie, founder of Teledata, Lebanon's largest Computer company; Roger, VP at AT&T in Dallas, Texas; Robert, manager of a large butcher-shop in Zalka; Eddie, Senior manager at HP in Oklahoma; Lilly, cafeteria owner in Lebanon. Young Maggie passed away too soon. Aunt Emily known for her strong melodic voice in Church. Uncle Bishara ran a pig farm at the bottom of the village. His sisters include Foutine (Elias Naoum's wife) and Warde (Abdallah Rashid's wife); his brothers Daoud, Abdo and Youssef. Daoud's kids include Joseph, a doctor at Hotel Dieu & Ghada (married, living in France). Abdo's son Saseen, married to Miniola, has a son Emad (m. Carol Maroun), & daughters: Carol, Chantal & Esmehan.



Roger Bishara & Hala



Robert Bishara



Elie Bishara & wife Yolla



Uncle Bishara Sassine & Aunt Emily



Beit Bishara gang; Sassine Abdou Sassine & wife Miniola below





George Haroun, Lilly's son; Lilly Bishara (Haroun) below





Uncle Daoud Sassine & wife (kids Ghada & Joseph); Lilly & her gang below



BEIT ELIE BISHARA



Elie's Crew



Bisha Elie Bishara Sassine & wife Nahid



Bisha & Elie



Nahed, Bisha, Karen, Yolla, Emily, Elie, Roland Adem, Akram Khoury, Lina Adem



Emily Elie



Bishara's family



Ely Bishara Elie Bishara Sassine

BEIT ROBERT BISHARA



Dory Robert AJ; with Parents Robert & Nawal, and sister Jenny below





Robert & wife



Robert Bishara with Daughter Joyce & Granddaughter

BEIT ROGER BISHARA



Amanda & Andrew



Roger, Hala, Amanda, Andrew



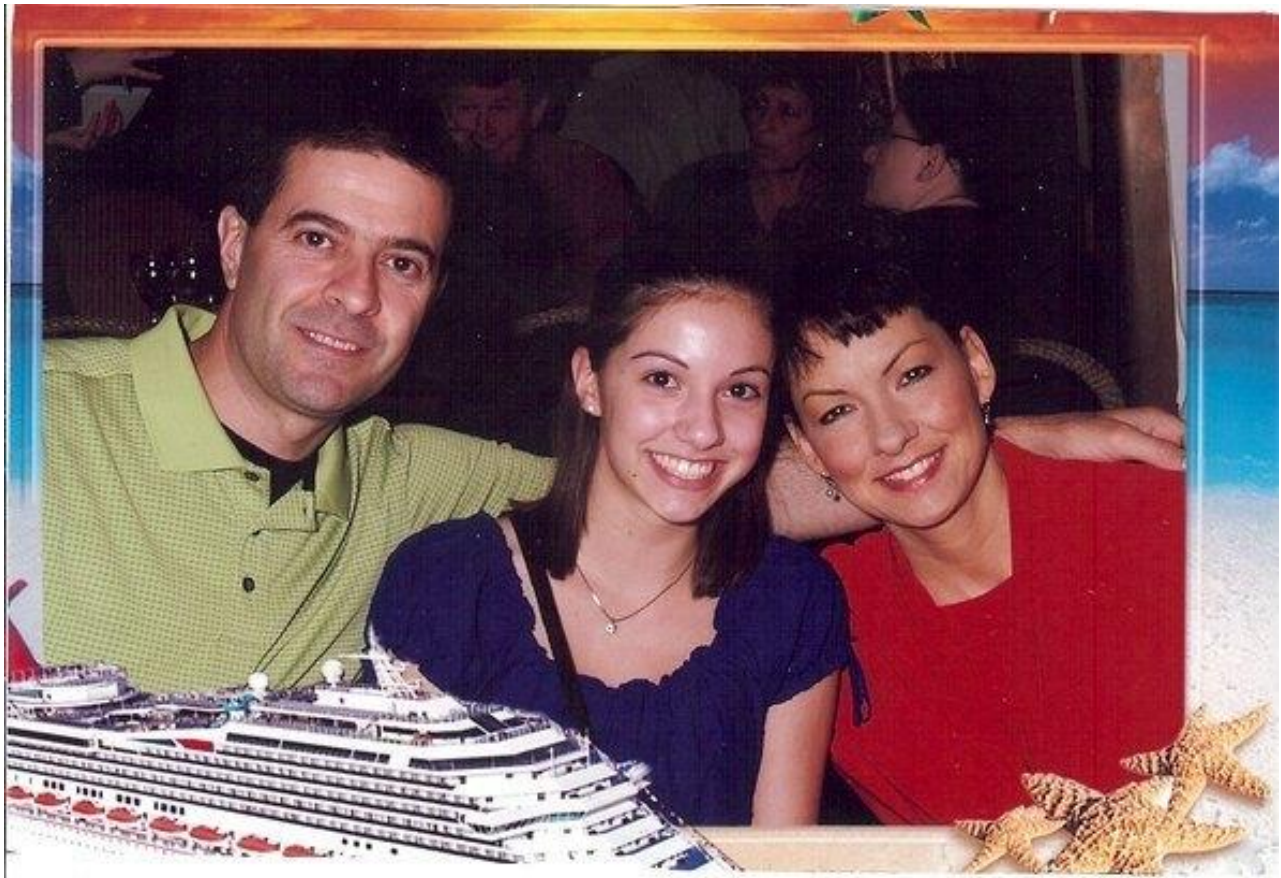
Andrew Roger Bishara Sassine

BEIT EDDIE BISHARA



Eddie Bishara; bye bye Robert's Datsun below ☺





Eddie, wife Margie and daughter Elizabeth



The Stages of Eddie ☺

Eddie is now in Oklahoma, a director at HP. That Datsun he wrecked was our gang's transportation, Robert being our guide to hidden corners of Beirut, including al Zahra 24 hour Cinema and other neighboring attractions ☺.

BEIT NASSIB



Raymond Nassib



Emm Nassib



Raymond Nassib & wife Jacqueline



Rania Raymond (Achkar) with kids-son Ralph



Remy Raymond



Roula & Rania



Emm Raymond

Raymond's kids include Daughters Roula, Rania, and Remy, and son Roland. Raymond's "Malhamet" (butcher shop) must be the smallest in the world, but it raised a beautiful family. His mother Therese the sister of Nassib Azar & Saydet. Sister Claudine (m. Gabriel Khairallah).



Roland Raymond Nassib



Bou Raymond (Nassib), middle; Antoine Romanos right, Sami left





Uncle Faris and Aunt Rafqa



Tony Elias Yousef Fares & his sisters



Colette & Kamal



Yolla (Aad)

Uncle Fares's (nephew of Bouna Hanna) kids: Colette, wife of Kamal Farid in Buffalo, NY; daughter Yolla; son Joseph now also in Buffalo. Sister Rafqa wife of Asaad Ghawi.



Maroun Aad with Grandpa



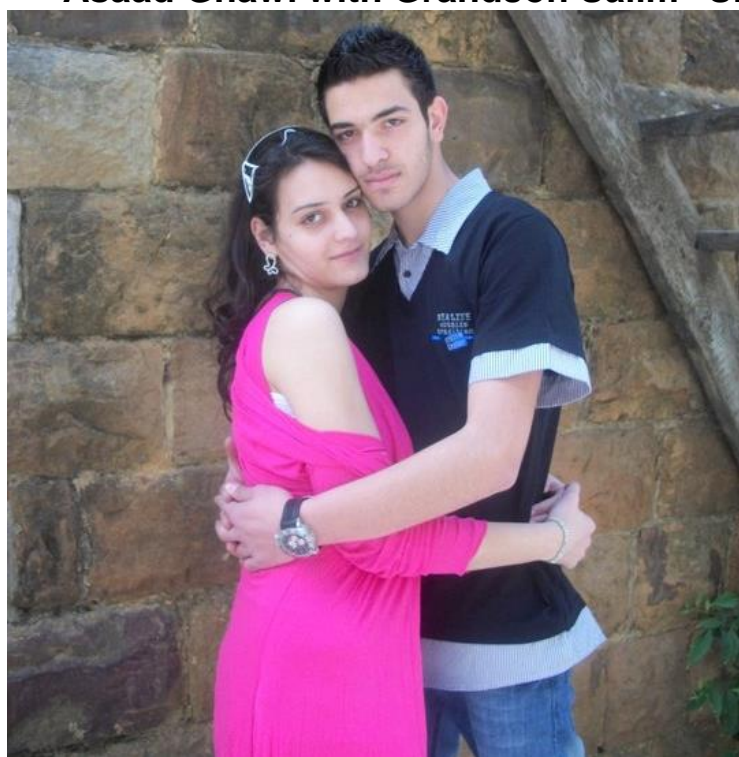
Elias Youssef Fares



Yolla & family Aad above; Aunt Rafqa with son Joseph & son-in-law



Asaad Ghawi with Grandson Salim “Sico” at ITK Championship



Salim with sister Christine, Maroun's kids



Grandma Takla



Maroun Asaad Ghawi, at Christine's wedding; Sico right
Asaad Ghawi's house is across from the "3ain", Maska spring. His grandson Salim a TaeKwonDo champion. Granddaughter Christine recently married Tony Albert.

BEIT EDMOND YOUSSEF AMIN

Uncle Bou-Edmond lived on the Oyoun road, right after the 3ain. His daughter Izabelle is married to Makhoul Rustom. His son Edmond has also passed away, and the Edmond house is now closed.



Youssef Amin (Bou Edmond); Emm Edmond; Edmond below



Edmond was unfortunately handicapped, but still managed to drive a taxi car, taking the village folks all over. Elie Farid told me a story about Edmond and Mansour (both handicapped) in Edmond's car, when someone cut them off, and came to pick a fight. Edmond and Mansour were big guys, despite their handicap, and as the guy approached, Mansour asked Edmond loudly: "Me7hrzi nenzal" (is it worth it for us to go down ☺), at which the guy, seeing their size, and not seeing their handicap, ran back to his car and disappeared. I miss both of them, struggling against great odds, but always kind and good humored.



Phillippe Youssef, now and then

Uncle Youssef lived in Akron, Ohio for a while. His kids Elie & Phillip grew up in Lebanon. Elie is now in Arizona, Phillip still in Maska. How they got the “Madi” and “Picon” nick-names is a village secret ☺.



Jerome with mom Caroline & Dad Elie Youssef

BEIT ELIE YOUSEF BISHARA



Elie's Kids – Janine, Jerome, Joseph



Caroline, Jerome, Janine, Elie, Joseph

ELIAS NAOUM'S FAMILY



Tony, Jimmy, Sohail



Emm Naoum (Foutine)



Uncle Elias Naoum



Samia (m. Salah Saber) & Uncle Elias Naoum

Salim Elias Naoum (center)



Sonia & Family (husband George Antoun AJ)

Elias Naoum & Foutine's kids include: Naoum (Teacher and Philosopher, wife Alice), Tony (Car parts business), Kamal (Beik ☺) (my childhood friend, director in the "Daman" (Social Security Administration) in Beirut), Suhail, Salim (government), Riad (now in Texas with son Dani and daughter Sylva), and daughters Samia & Sonia. Kamal's kids include Jimmy and Joseph. Foutine is Bishara Sassine's and Warde Abdallah Rashid's sister.



Kamal & wife Gizelle Bishara at Jimmy's Graduation



Jimmy Kamal & his sister Joanna



Joseph Kamal; Kamal Beik below





Jimmy & Joseph; Kamal Beik our master Speaker below





Jimmy Kamal Beik Elias Naoum– Heyk el Shabab walla Bala



Riyad's Clan at Roger's in Dallas: Sylva with husband and son & daughter, Danny & wife; +Emily Elie Bishara



Danny & wife, Sylva, Riad



Riad Elias Naoum, with Maguy (RIP), Sylva, & Dani

Riad, our village “Detective” and teller of tall stories, married to Maguy Bishara who passed away too young. His kids went with him to the US where he visited with us, and re-established himself, working in the New Brunswick Police department.

His son Dany is an Engineering manager now in Dallas, Texas. Daughter Sylva was an Accenture consultant, now living in Dallas as well, where Riad has moved after retirement. Dallas now is a stronghold for Beit el-Khoury ☺, with Roger, Riad, Dani, Sylva, and with Eddie and Dory within driving distance in Oklahoma and Wichita, Kansas. The nearest Beit Ghosn fort is in Arizona (Elie I-Madi ☺).



Tony Elias Naoum & wife Marie



Kamal & wife Yolla, Tony & wife Marie



Roni Tony Elias Naoum & Family



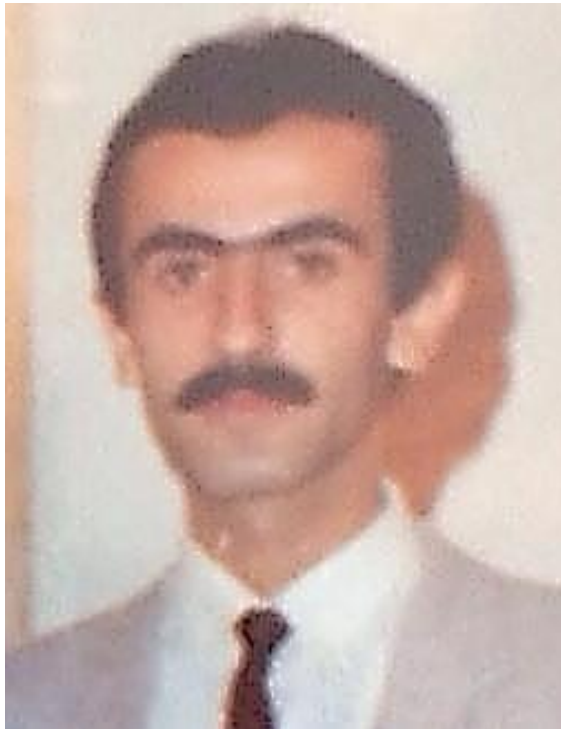
Pauline Tony & Family



Elie Tony



Sohail & wife Mariella Aoun; (Daughter Christelle below)





Sohail's Family; Suhail and daughter Lea below





Esso (Esperance Samia) Naoum & Daughter Melanie





Elie Naoum Elias Naoum; below with Melanie bint Esso





Naoum Elias Naoum (m. Alice Safar)



Elie Naoum Elias Naoum



Patricia & Elie



Patricia Naoum (m. Jean Youssef)



Elio & Melodie; Elie Naoum's children

BEIT YOUSEF FARES & ELAINE



George Yousef Fares



Abdo Youssef Fares



Elie Yousef Fares (left; nicknamed 7Halab ☺)



Samira Rouhana



Edwin George Yousef Fares

George (Elaine ☺) (son Edwin, Daughter Elena), Elie (Halab ☺) (son Alain) and Abdo live at the Maska crossroads. Sister Samira (m. Rouhana).

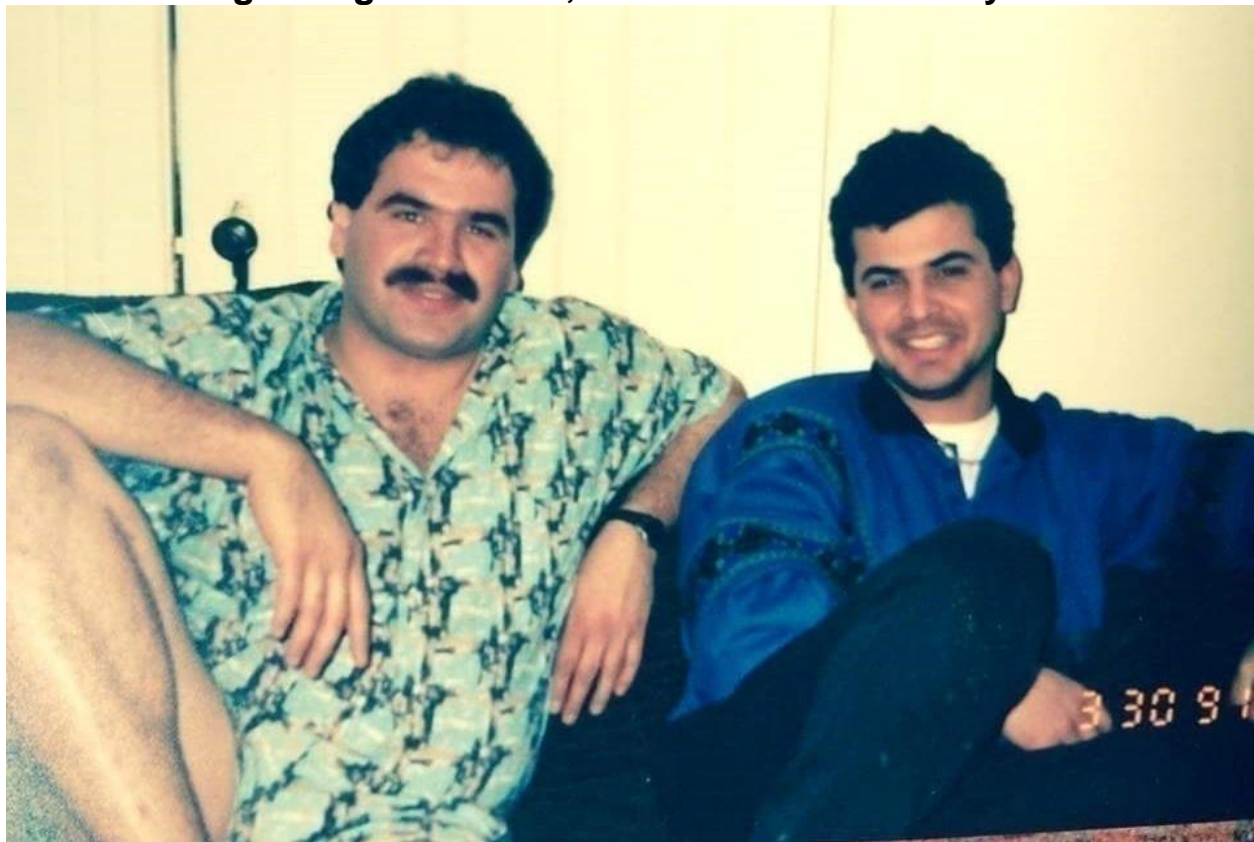


George's Gang now (Daughter Elena left); the old gang below (Elie & Roger)





Young George & Jaoudi; With Elie in New Jersey below





Elaine & Youssef



THE “HERHS” (MIKHAIL & NAZIH FAHID’S FAMILIES)



Grandpa Fahid & wife

Fahid was married twice... the second time “informally”. The second marriage brought us uncle Mikhail, Nazih, & Marinka.

Fahid’s house is at the Maska intersection, where Mikhail’s kids and Nazih now live. His “Baranda” is famous in the village, having caused a fight that reached president Chamoun at the time ☺. Otherwise the Herh’s, as the clan is called, are a peaceful bunch. Najib now lords it over the village entrance from his new “Baranda”, an “Argulieh” always at the ready. Their store is the village grocery, and their on & off “Furn” also a favorite. Hadi ibn Nazih is the village “Ladies man” – at least since Tony Albert retired ☺.

BEIT NAZIH



Hadi Ibn Nazih

Nazih



Nazih and Leila



Nazih's clan: wife Leila (bint Najla), sons Hisham and Hadi, Daughter Jihan

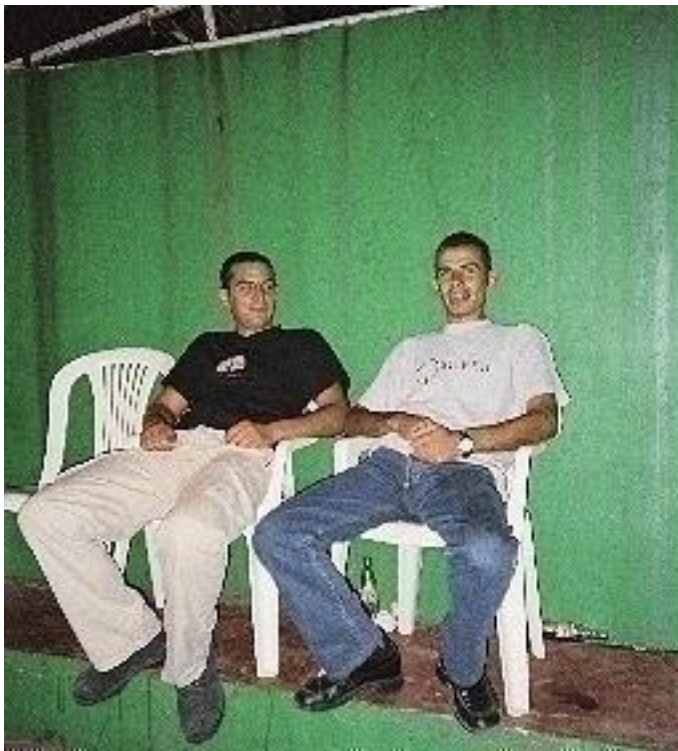


Charles & Jihane AbouJaoude Wazen & family (Daughter of Nazih & Leila)

BEIT MIKHAIL



Amal Mkhail



Elie Mikhail w Milo



Abdo Mikhail



Elie Mikhail with Maya and Sami; Najeeb & wife below





Fadi Mikhail and Elie Mikhail above; Fadi & Sister Amal below





Sister JeanDarc



Mikhail



Najib's family, Hoda on left, Fadi's wife in middle



Tant Hoda, with her Girls; Marie Mikhail & Marinka below

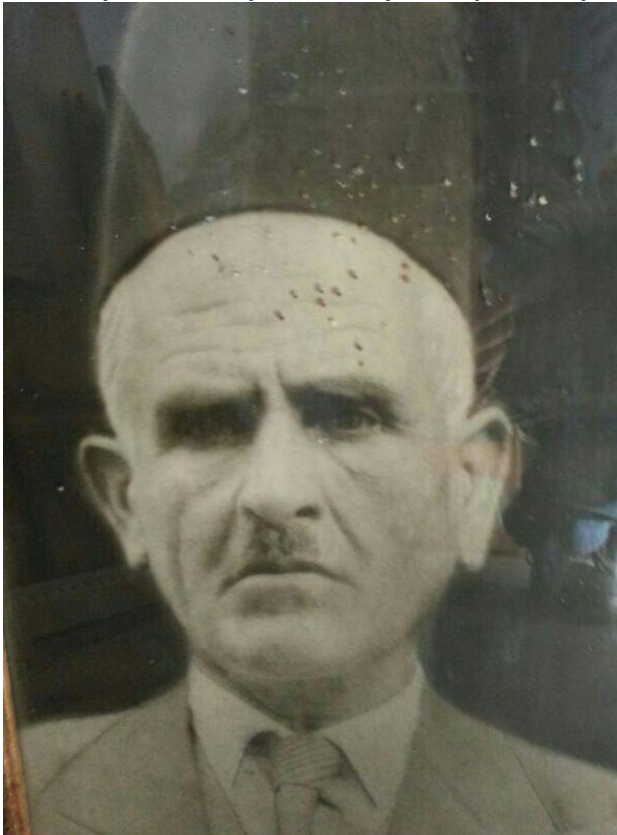


Mikhail's sons include Najeeb, Fadi, Elie, and Abdo. Daughters include Samia, Souad, (Sister) JeanD'Arc, Amale, Marie. Mikhail's sister Marinka (RIP). The Family is more popularly called by their nick-name, the 7her7hs ☺, origin unknown ☺, like all village nicknames.





Sitti (Grandma) Tamini (mart (wife of) Deeb) with Mimo; Jiddi Deeb below



Grandpa Deeb's family was Grandpa Fadlallah's neighbor, and our closest friends growing up. Sons Hafez, Albert (RIP), Michel (RIP), and daughters Hafiza (wife of Uncle Henry), Hoda (wife of Mikhail), Souad, and Helaine (wife of Youssef). Albert's sons Tony and George work in Paris, along with daughter Taqla, and daughter Rita (wife of my brother Tony). Hafiz's kids: Deeb (who runs his father's plumbing business in Brummana), Michael, and daughters Tanva & Dalal



Uncle Michel Deeb (RIP); wife Najat (RIP) above



Hafiz with wife Adele, daughter Tania and husband Rami Abirached



Tania Hafez & Rami AbiRached



Hafez Deeb



Mike Hafiz & his sisters Tania and Dalal



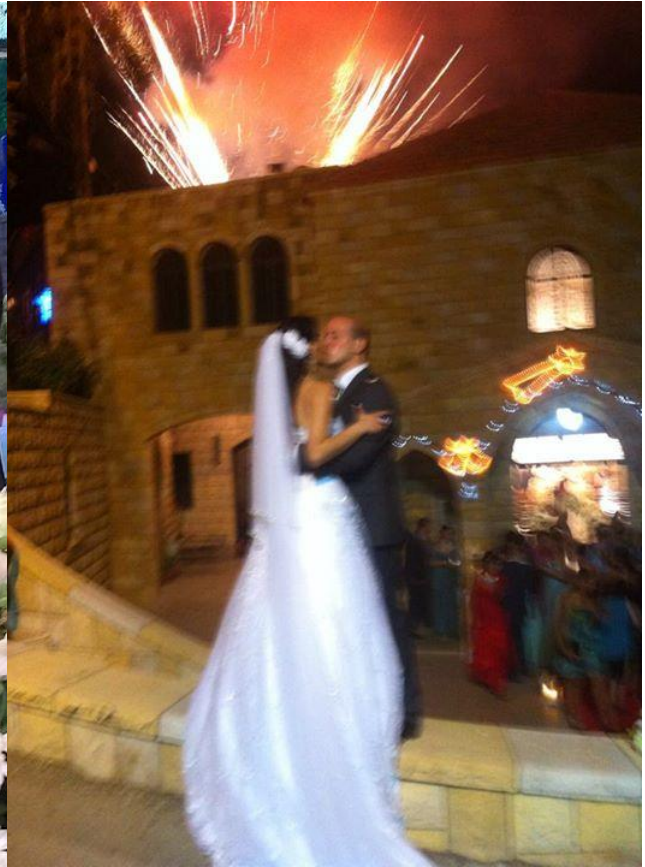
Mike Hafiz Deeb Semaan



Hafiz's clan–Tania, Dalal, Deeb, Mike;Tania,Dalal,Simon Achkar, Rami below



BEIT ALBERT DEEB



Tony Albert (at his wedding to Christine Ghawi)



Taqla & Tony Albert in Paris



Tony & George Albert (with Deeb, Dalal, Mike Hafiz)



Tant Nadia (with Mike Hafiz); Carine Rouhana (Taqla's daughter)



Uncle Albert (RIP)



Aunt Nadia

Uncle Albert was a good time man, always with a drink and a smile.
His kids: Tony, George, Tagla (in France), & Rita (m. Tony Sami).



Rita (right) with Aimee, Carla



Rita with her Princess, Mira; Tony with wife and daughter in Paris below



BEIT FOUAD FARES

Uncle Fouad & Marie's Kids: Tony, an entrepreneur formerly in the US; Essam, in Saudi Arabia; and Salwa (m. Knickerbocker) in California. Tony's kids: Frederick, Patrick & Michael; Essam's kids: Anthony & Jessica. Aunt Marie sister of Semaan, Emile, Karim, Adeeb, Angele & Antoinette.



Salwa (Saloi Knickerbocker)



Tant Marie



Issam & uncle Fouad



Tony Fouad & son





Frederick Tony Fouad Fares



Fouad's Clan bil Arz



3Ammi Fouad (with Hicham Nazih)



Anthony Essam Fouad Fares



Salwa's (Knickerbocker) kids

BEIT LOUIS MALEK (BHALA)



Abouna Najib with Bishop Nasser; sisters Marie, Emilie; Malek above

ABOUNA NAJEEB, our village Saint, RIP





Amine Joseph Louis



Father Najib's brothers: Father Shukrallah, Emile & Joseph.

BEIT MILAD & MAJID GHOSN



Milad Ghosn & Latife



Majid Ghosn (Abu-Ali)



Nawader Milad sister of Nahi (with Bishop Gemayel)

Grandpa Majid Ghosn, nicknamed Abu-Ali (a common nick-name for those with unusual strength), at 90 years old still able to crush much younger men. Many stories told of his legendary lifts in his youth.

BEIT NAHI MILAD GHOSN



Nahi Milad Ghosn & Corinne



Nahi with sons Alain & Christian



Nahi (RIP); Alain right;



Patricia, Nahi, Christian, Corinne & Alain

Nahi was a retired Army officer. He was my Neighbor in Oyoum, and very active in the Village Club and the Church. He is greatly missed by all.



Patricia Nahi Edde & Family; Christian and Dad below



BEIT ROMANOS

I remember watching Cartoons from the window of Uncle Elia's house, his TV being the first in the village, with kids crowding for the novelty. Uncle Antoine Romanos, the gentleman Insurance adjustor, was always smiling, always calm, but playing a mean game of backgammon ☺.



Uncle Hafiz, Antoine Romanos (his house), Dad



Pierre Elia



Grandma; Elia Romanos and “Tant” Jamal left; Dad and Olga right



Abdallah and Marcellino



Tant Jamal & Taqla's Daughter



Paul, Abdallah, Marcellino & wife

Uncle Elia used to train us in wrestling in the Church house during the Summer. His kids include Abdalla and Marcellino, Engineers in Florida, US; Paul, businessman in Florida; Pierre in Lebanon, and Takla. Marcellino travelled around the world with his job with the US Military and other institutions. Abdalla is married to Uncle Adeeb's daughter Rima.



Romanos in Florida

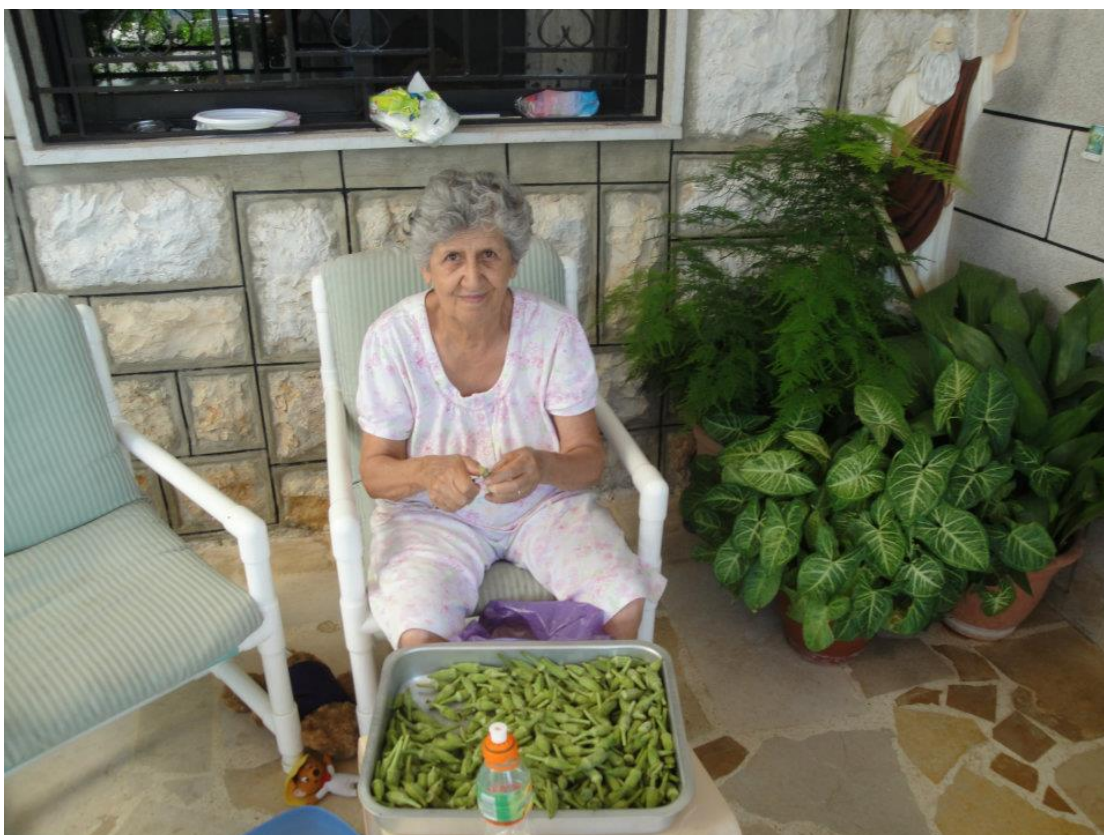


Marcellino & Abdallah Romanos

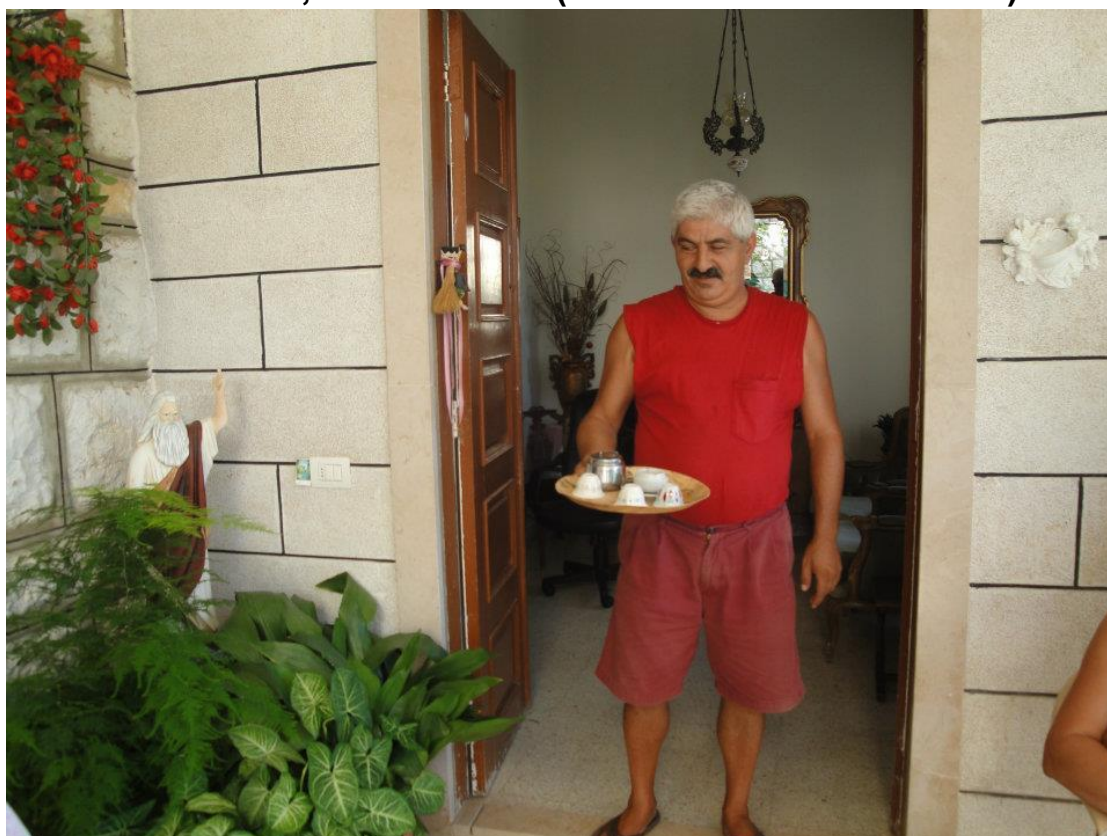
Tant Josephine



Romanos



Tant Jamal; Pierre below (uncle Elia's face lives on)





Uncle Elia & Antoine Romanos



Dad visiting Emm Elia



Pierre Elia; Takla Romanos (m. AbouDiwan) below



BEIT ABDALLAH ROMANOS



Abdallah Romanos Clan



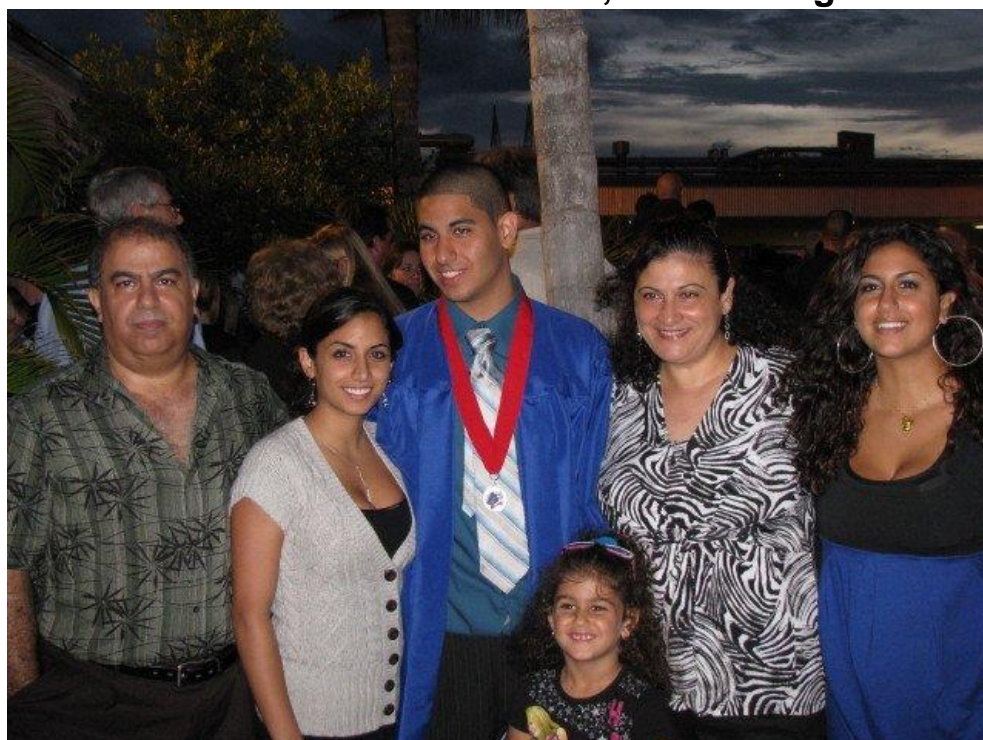
Christina, Rima, Abe, Carine Romanos



Antoine Abdallah Elia Romanos



Rima with Carine and Christina; whole Gang below



BEIT MARCELLINO ROMANOS



Marcellino



Elinio Marcellino Romanos





Marcellino's Family



Abdallah & Marcellino

BEIT PAUL ROMANOS



Paul & wife Jocelyn – Elino Marcellino in between



Paul



Elia Paul Elia Romanos & his sister

BEIT YOUSSEF HANNA



Shukrallah in Paris (with Emile Semaan's kids)



Emm William

BEIT HANNA YOUSSEF HANNA



Lena Hanna, son Joe, husband Jean Asmar



Youssef Hanna's sons were six: Toufic, Shukrallah, Hanna (RIP), Michel, Albert & Emile. Michel was a leader of labor in the MEA airlines; Estaz Albert ran a major school; Emile is our "Mukhtar". Daughter Salwa married Youssef Maroun.



Marta (Hanna's wife), son Hekmat; Daughter Marlene (m. Joseph Sawaya)



Joseph Hanna (RIP)



Estaz Hanna



Marlene

Hanna's sons Hekmat & Joseph passed away too soon. His brother Shukrallah was in and out of Paris in his last years.

BEIT ALBERT YOUSSEF HANNA

Albert's kids include Hisham, Alberto, Joy-Pierre, Mary-Rita, Gwen, Paula.



Estaz Albert in Aboujaoude reception for MP Khalil AJ; Edmond AJ to his left.



Estaz Albert (center)



Estaz Albert & wife Amal; Hisham, Joy-Pierre, Paula, Albert, Gwen below





Hisham Albert ; Joy-Pierre Albert & Paula Albert below





Celebrating the next generation; Alberto, Gwen and Marita below





Mukhtar Emile and wife Therese

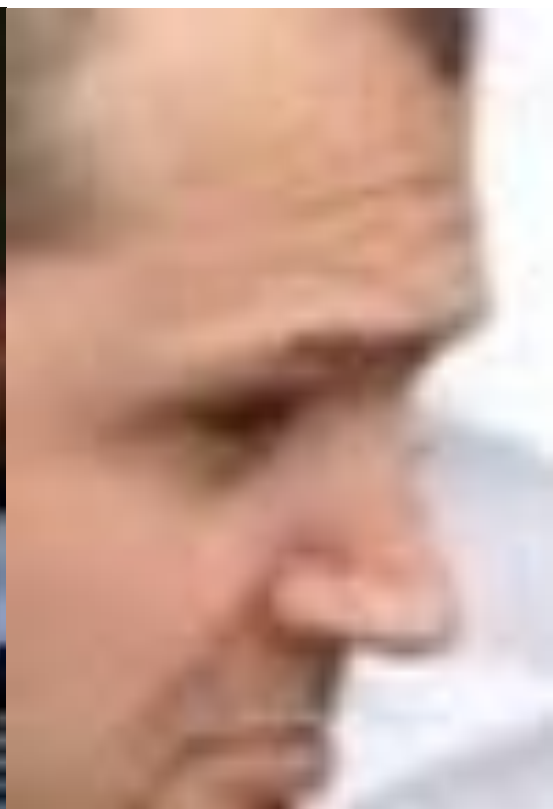
Emile's children include sons Fadi & Gilbert, and daughter Amale married to Jean Youssef Maroun. Emile is the Mukhtar (Alderman) of the village. A largely symbolic post, it still carries a lot of respect – after all, they used to brag: “Neh7na el Khatm, w Rabb el Khatm, l-Khatm M3abba bJaybetna” 😊. (we're the stamp, the lord of the stamp, the stamp is in our pocket!), referring to the important seal the Mukhtar carries. Emile's house is at Dhahra, our old camping ground, the best view in the village.



Emile and Leticia Gilbert



Fadi Emile



Gilbert Emile



Fadi Emile and Rita Assaf & family



William (left) (Uncle Adeeb's kids & Abouna Najib also showing)



Toufic William & Chantal



Mona mart William



Chantal Toufic & Daughter Mary-Nour



Toufic William; Susanne William below





Mary Nour Toufic; Michel chilling below





Michel above, The Clan below





Emm William (Josephine-sister of Youssef Maroun), with William & Toufic



Christiane William
below



BEIT CHARBEL TOUFIC YOUSSEF HANNA



Blanche, Roy, Ryan, Eva, Charbel, Elie



Charbel & Blanche (Carole Maroun bint Antoinette also showing)



Charbel & Ryan



Roy, Ryan, Eva

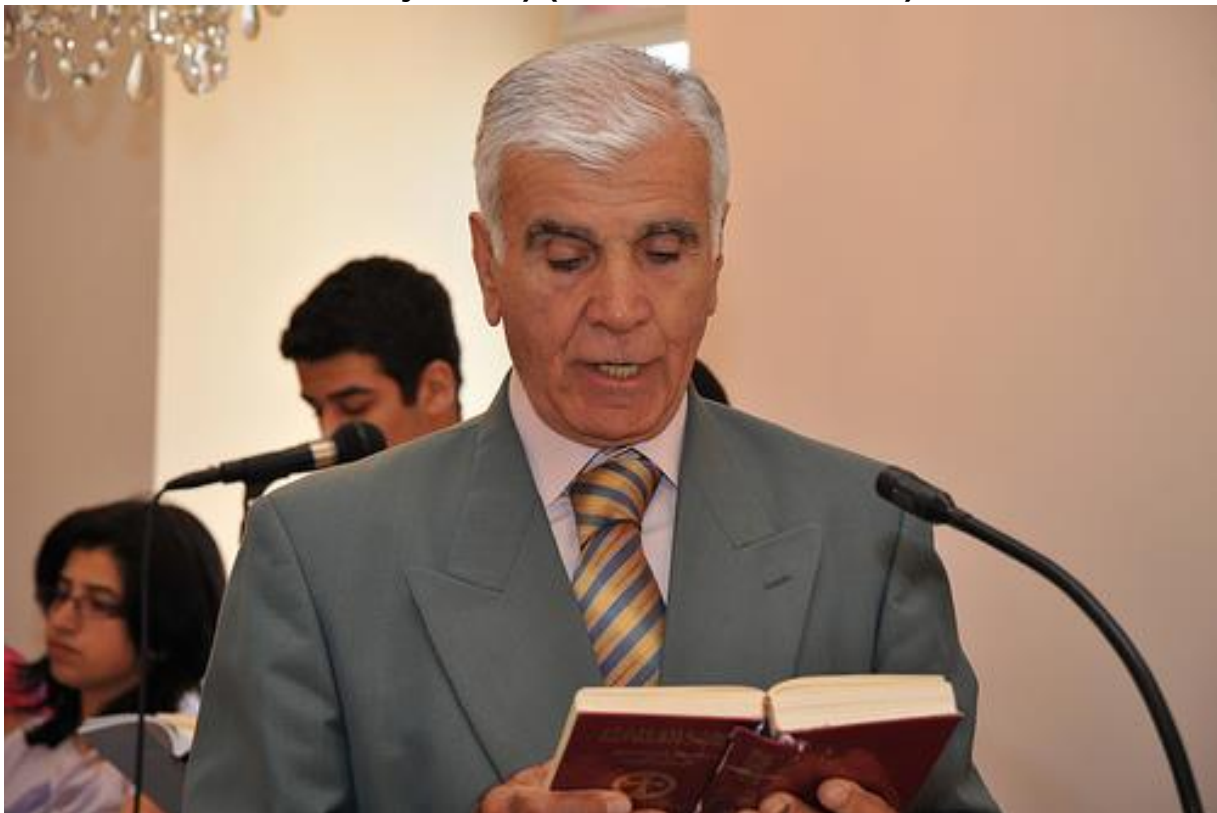


Elie Charbel

BEIT MICHEL YOUSSEF HANNA



Michel (with Cardinal El-Ra3hi, Bishops George and Roland Aboujaoude) (Elie Roufael behind)



Michel, Voice and Suit Always Tops



Michel, wife Sousou & Family

Michel was a leader of the labor movement in the Middle East Airlines. Famous for his gravelly voice, singing in Church and speaking at our village public events, his suits always the latest cut. He travels between Maska and Paris with his family.



Chukrallah and Layal Michel AJ

BEIT YOUSSEF MAROUN



Maroun & Family



Maroun & grandkids-Tony's Kids



Jeanette Youssef Maroun (Rizkallah)



Tanios Rizkallah

Youssef Maroun's kids include: Maroun (Belgium and Africa), married to Ygette bint Ayyoub (Daughter Gretta married to cousin Tony Emile (Siham ©)); Jean (MEA at Beirut Airport, wife Amale daughter of Mukhtar Emile); Jeanette, married to Tanios Rizkallah. Laure, m. Geryes Maroun.





Ygette & Daughter Marianne; Maroun with Zouzou's kids below





3Amm Bou-Maroun (with his sister Shafiqa Rizkallah)

BEIT JEAN YOUSSEF MAROUN



Jean & wife Amale



with Jean Youssef Maroun, my old friend



Jean – Our Village Strength

Jean & Amale's kids include sons Marc & Charles, & Daughter Maria.



Charles Jean



Maria Jean



Marc Jean Youssef Maroun

BEIT JOSEPH MAROUN



Zouzou Maroun & Family





Zouzou Maroun & Son

BEIT ROUFAIL MAROUN



Josephine Roufail AbuFadel with husband Elias & son Michel



Saad & Georgette Roufail



George, Saad Bechara, Hana, Georgette, Juhayna, Rizq



Elias Roufail (with Butros Hanna & Father Waleed)



Bechara Clan at Juhayna's Wedding in Seattle

Roufael's kids include daughter Josephine (now married in Lebanon), Georgette (married to Saad Bechara, now living in Seattle Washington), and sons (including Elias (wife Helen, kids Rafael, Rana, Rodrigues, Ray), Joseph (wife Randa, kids Rita, Tracy, Joelle), George (wife Jane, kids Jad, Takla, Joey) & Jihad in Lebanon). Georgette's kids include sons George (a PhD in Bio-medical engineering in Seattle) and Rizk, as well as daughters Juhayna and Hana. Roufael is the brother of Youssef Maroun in Kherbe.



Raphael Aboujaoude – ("Roufail 2.0" ☺)

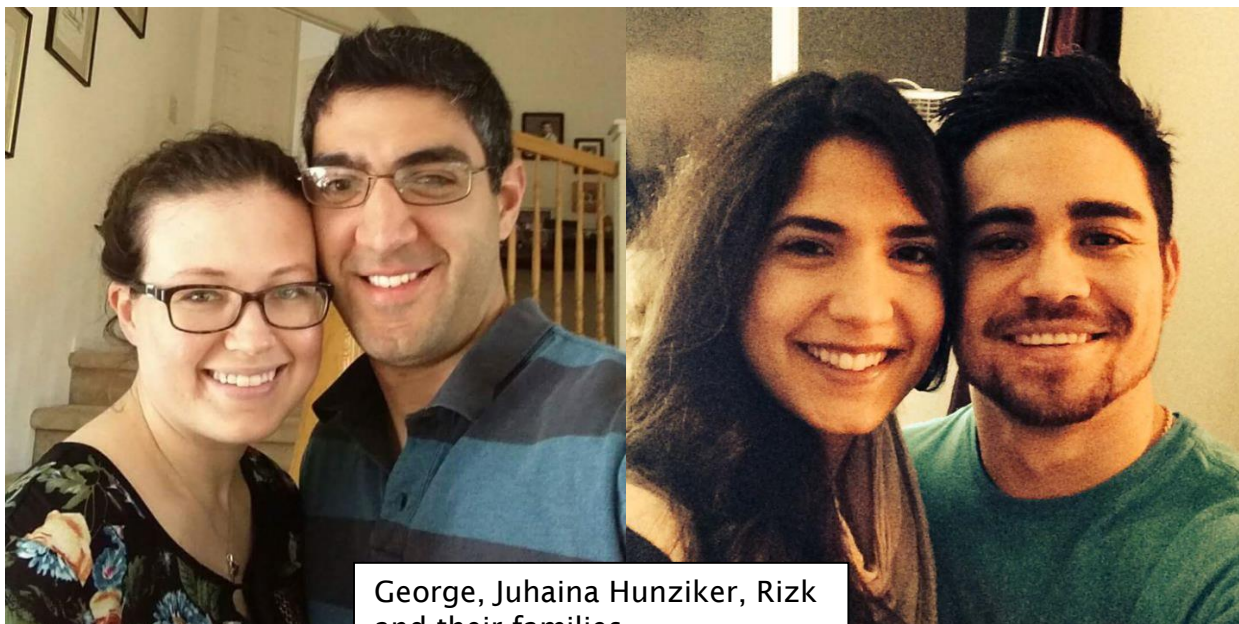


Jihad



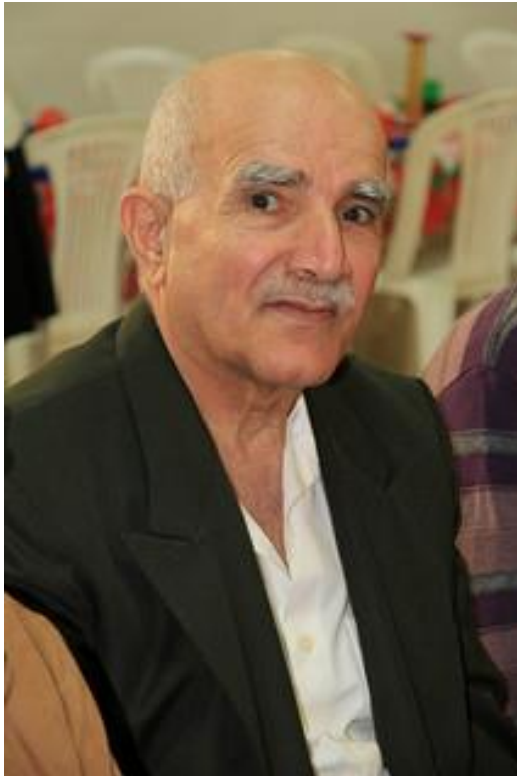
Uncle Roufail the original, with Josephine & Takla Roufail; Joseph below





George, Juhaina Hunziker, Rizk and their families





Raymond Amin



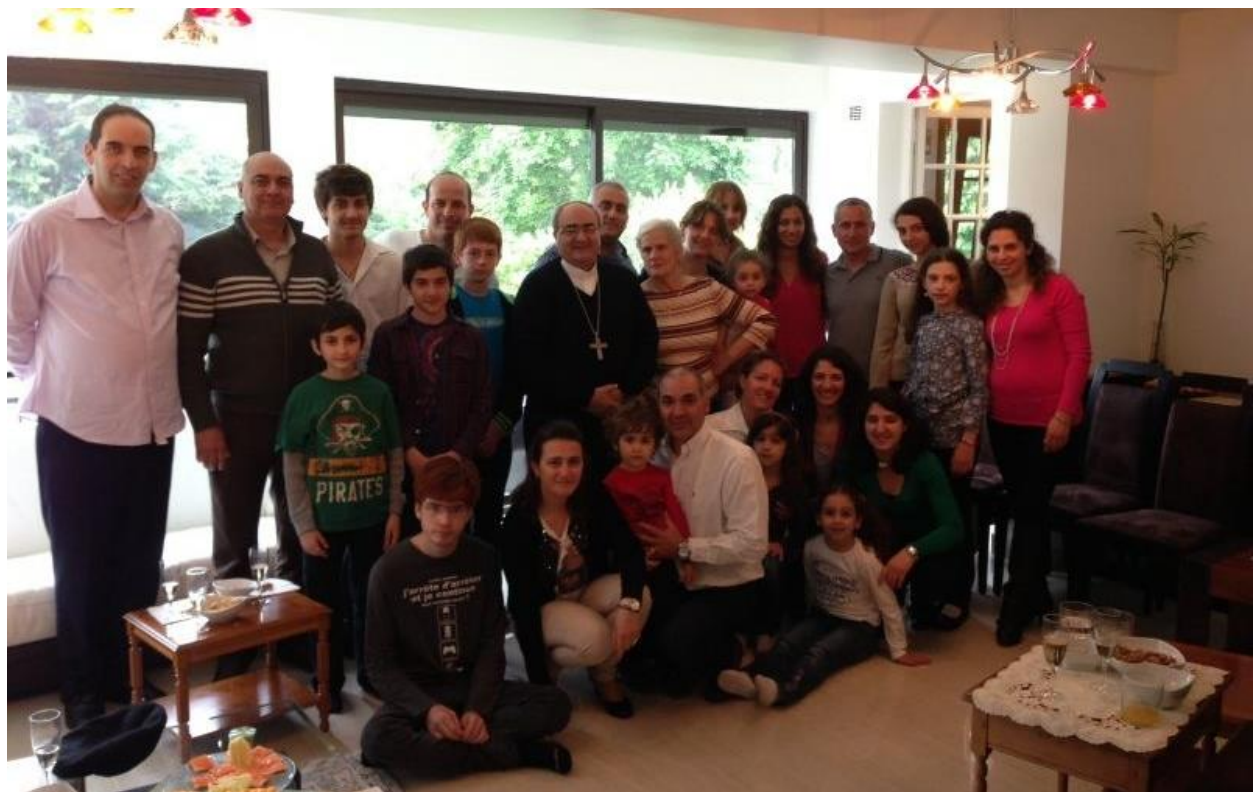
Geryes Elias Amin (Kids Waleed, Mansour, Rita (m. Abdo Hanna))



Waleed Geryes Elias Amin



Amin Elias Amin



Gabi Amin (crouching) and Elie Amin (second from left) & Paris gang

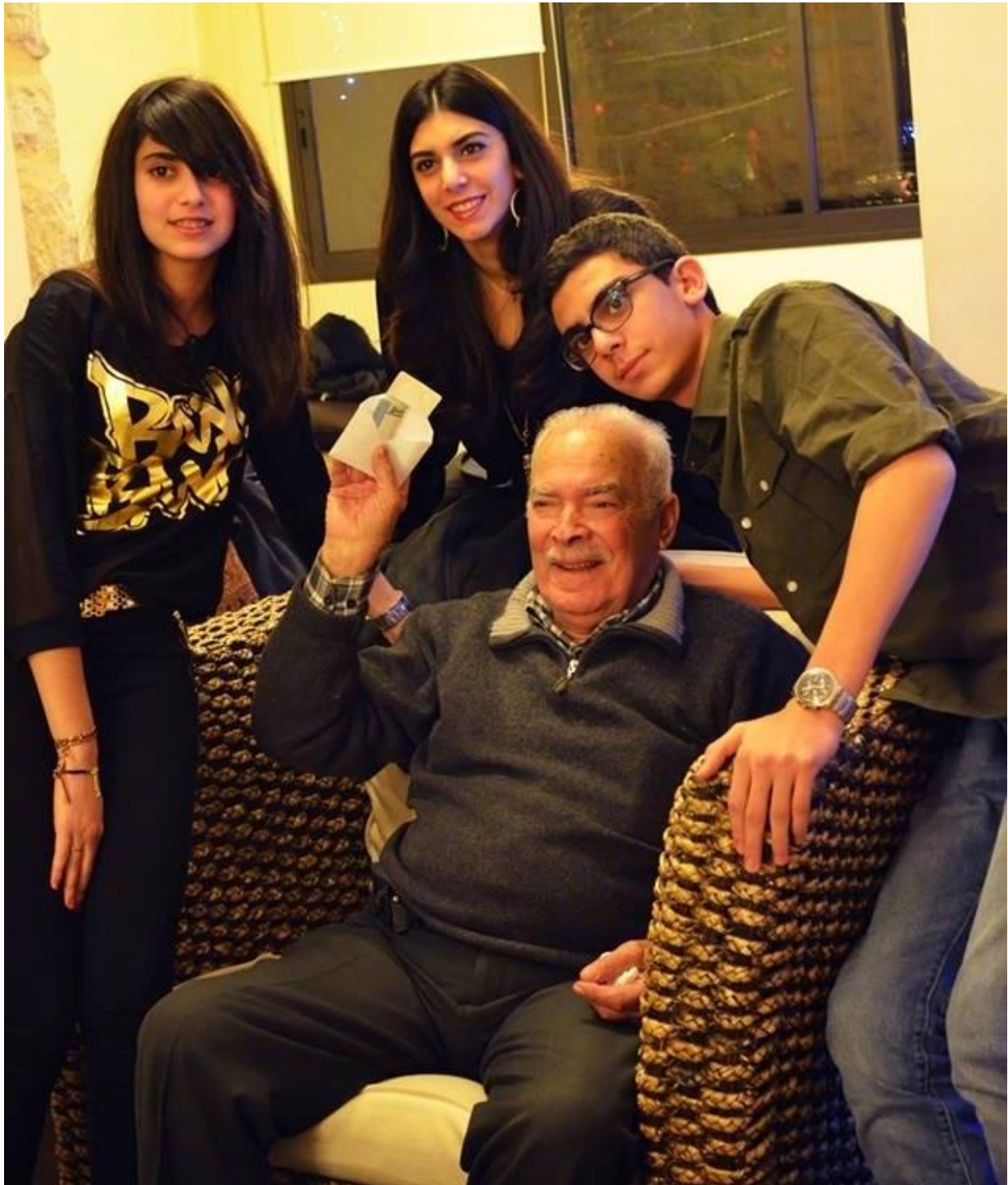


Naji Amin (RIP, our young Rebel)



Uncle Abou Amin, center

Abou Amin had several kids, Bishara, Amin, Geryes, and Mansour. Mansour was handicapped, but managed to run the store at the entrance to Maska, later run by Gerges & his father. Amin's kids include Gabi & Elie, and the young departed Raymond & Naji (RIP).



Sheikh Amin (aka al-Mukhtar ☺) with his Grandkids (Elie's kids)

BEIT ELIE AMIN



Elie Amin with wife Marie, son Jack, Daughters Romy & Rosy





Elie Amin Elias Amin & wife Marie

Elie commutes between Paris and Maska. Wife Marie, kids Jack, Romy & Rosy.

BEIT GABI AMIN



Ghabi, wife Hoda (Bishara) & Kids



Gaby Amin



Elias Abdo Rustum



Phillipe Abdo Rustum

Rustum, Emile, Elias & Phillipe, the sons of Abdo Rustum live in Kherbet. Their sisters: Taqla (m. Moussa el Hajj) and Sammia (m. Farid Rizkallah).

Rustum has daughters Zizi (Gizelle) (m. Melhem Zeinati), Nabiha (m. Anwar Qawmi), Gilbert (m. George Wehbi) and JeanDarc (m. Maroun Azar) & son Abdo (kids Elize & Jonathan), while Elias (who worked in Africa for a while) is married to Aida bint Kamil (son Mario & Daughter Simone (Lebanese Volleyball Champion) in London).

Phillipe (RIP) & wife Antoinette have six sons, including Charbel, Emile, George, Paul, Pierre and our newest priest from Maska, Father Roland, who was celebrated recently on his inaugural mass.

"ليس تامينه افضل من معلم" انجيل لوقا
 رعية مار تقلا المسمي تسبي الكاهن
 الجديد رولان ابو جهوده ورفاقه



Father Roland Phillipe's first Mass in Maska; mom Antoinette, brothers (Emile, ..)



Charbel Phillipe



Simone Elias



Aida, son Mario & his wife, Elias Abdo Rustum, Simone AJ,



Mario Elias Abdo Rustum



Abdo Rustum Abdo Rustum



Charbel Philippe & Jeanette; with family at wedding below





Georgette, Hafiz, George Eid (Tarria), Joseph Eid, Asaad

Tarriya, nickname (take it easy) of George, our Ivory coast immigrant with his treasures of ivory tusks, gold, and antique Simca car still tip-top after 60 years. Before he passed away, his usual joke was telling about the bar-ladies at the Casino: “Here” (pointing to his pocket), “beaucoup”; “Here” (pointing to his crotch), “rien”- they of course choosing his pocket 😊. I also remember Tarriya making soap out of cowdung next to his house... very messy and smelly process. Once you’ve seen it, scares you from soap... sort of like watching Hotdogs being made.

His brother Joseph (RIP) lived in Spain till recently. Sister Jalili the fancy lady of Maska, until recently very active, always with her best makeup on. Sister Georgette was “el-Shaqra” (Blondie 😊). Their mom Warde was my Grandma Adele’s sister, and Father Eid the village “bone Doctor” of sorts.

Beit Eid is now closed, all having passed on, but not forgotten with the passing of George and Jalili in 2013.



Jalili



Jalili & Tarria



Tarriya – I miss U



Joseph Eid with Uncle Hafiz; Looking Good!

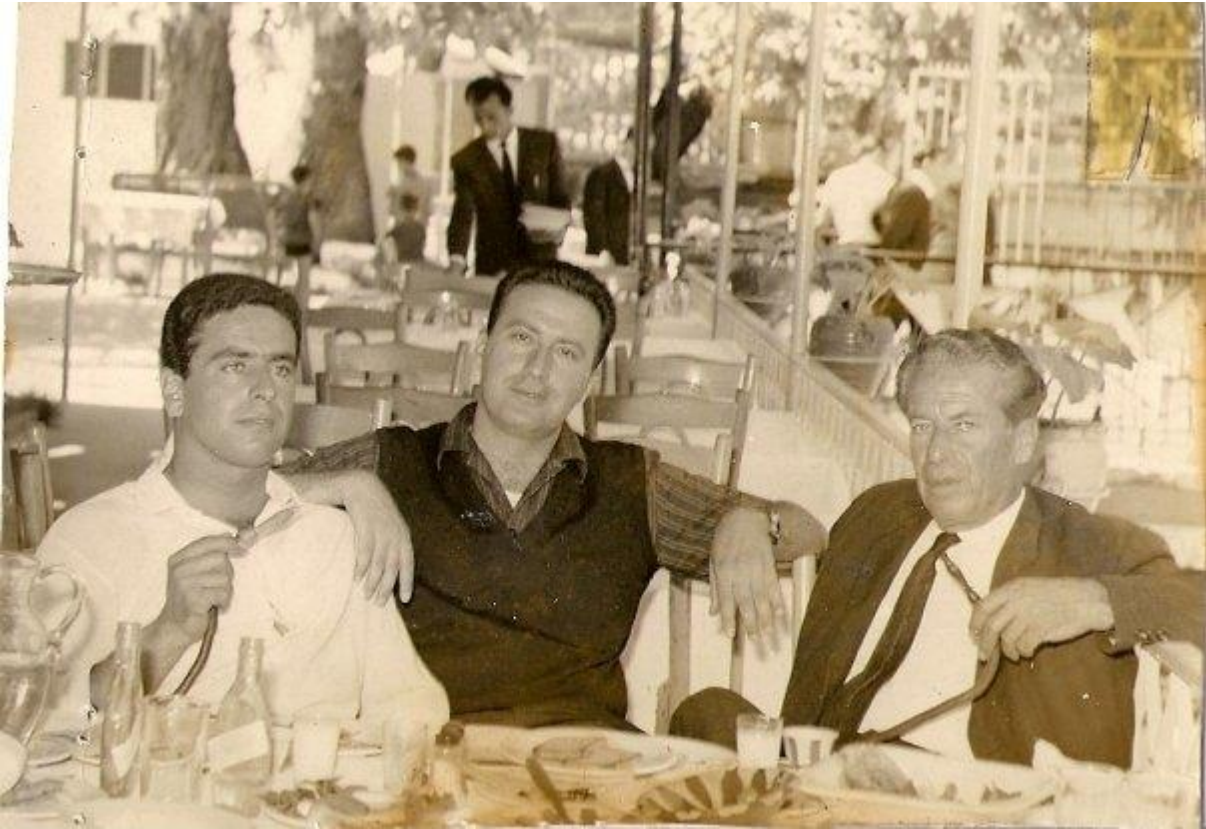


Georgette, George, Joseph – must be in the 1930's



George Eid (Tarriya) and his baby Simca

BEIT RUSTUM MAKHOUL



Nabih Rustum Makhoul, George Amin, Chekrallah Sleiman



Edward Rustum (RIP), Yvonne, Rustum Edward



Maria AJ Hakme (bint Edward) & husband Hicham & family

Rustum Makhoul's kids include Edward (married to aunt Yvonne, daughter of Jiddi Fares), Jamil, Nabih and Makhoul. Wife Dibe (nee Younes from Brummana; sister of Haifa mart Kamil). Edward's son Rustum is a prominent lawyer in Lebanon.



Nohad Ibn Jamil (with Samir Rachid)

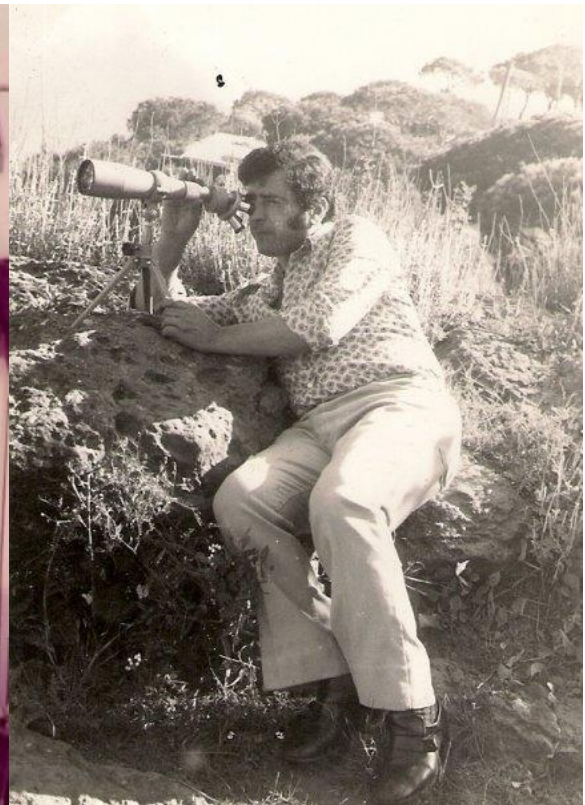


Dibe Rustum

BEIT NABIH RUSTUM



Nabih Rustum





Nabih's Kids (Jad & Ziad); with Nabih below

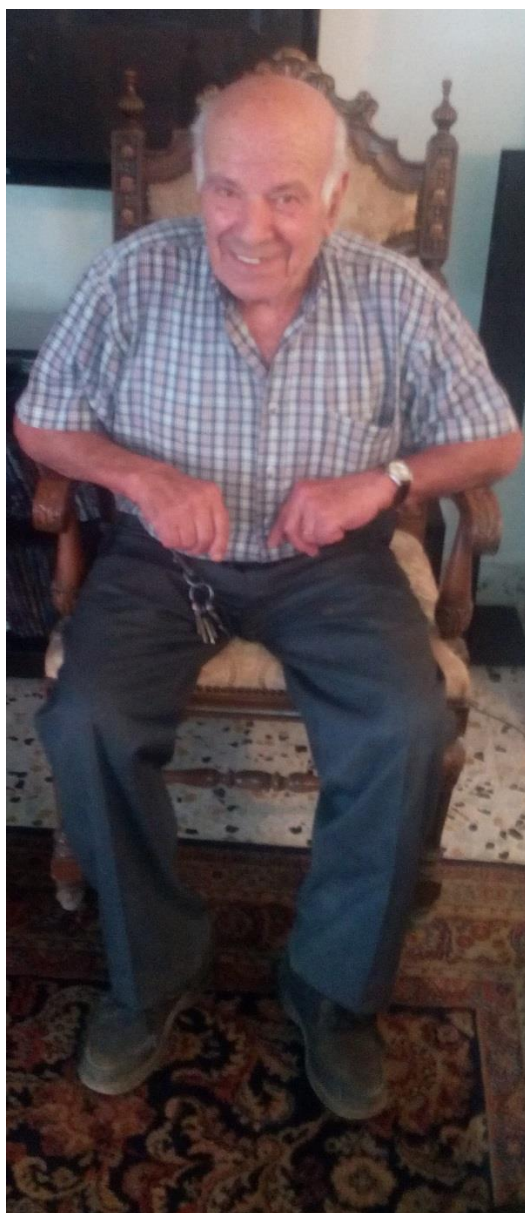


BEIT JAMIL RUSTUM



Clockwise: Nohad; Roger; Roni; Nader - Jamil & Jacqueline's sons





Uncle Jamil & his Daughters; Mom Jacqueline (RIP) below



Uncle Jamil lives in Kherbet, with his sons Nuhad (wife Marcelle), Roni (wife Laurice), Nader (wife Ne3me) and Roger (wife Noha), and daughters Mona (m. Raymond Boulos) and Margo (m. Henry Matar). His wife - Jaqueline Amine, sister of Salim & Fawzi. Nuhad's daughter Ghenwa is married to Nadim's son Charbel.

BEIT RUSTUM EDWARD RUSTUM MAKHOUL



Rustum & wife Elsie; son Rawad below



BEIT MAKHOUL RUSTUM MAKHOUL



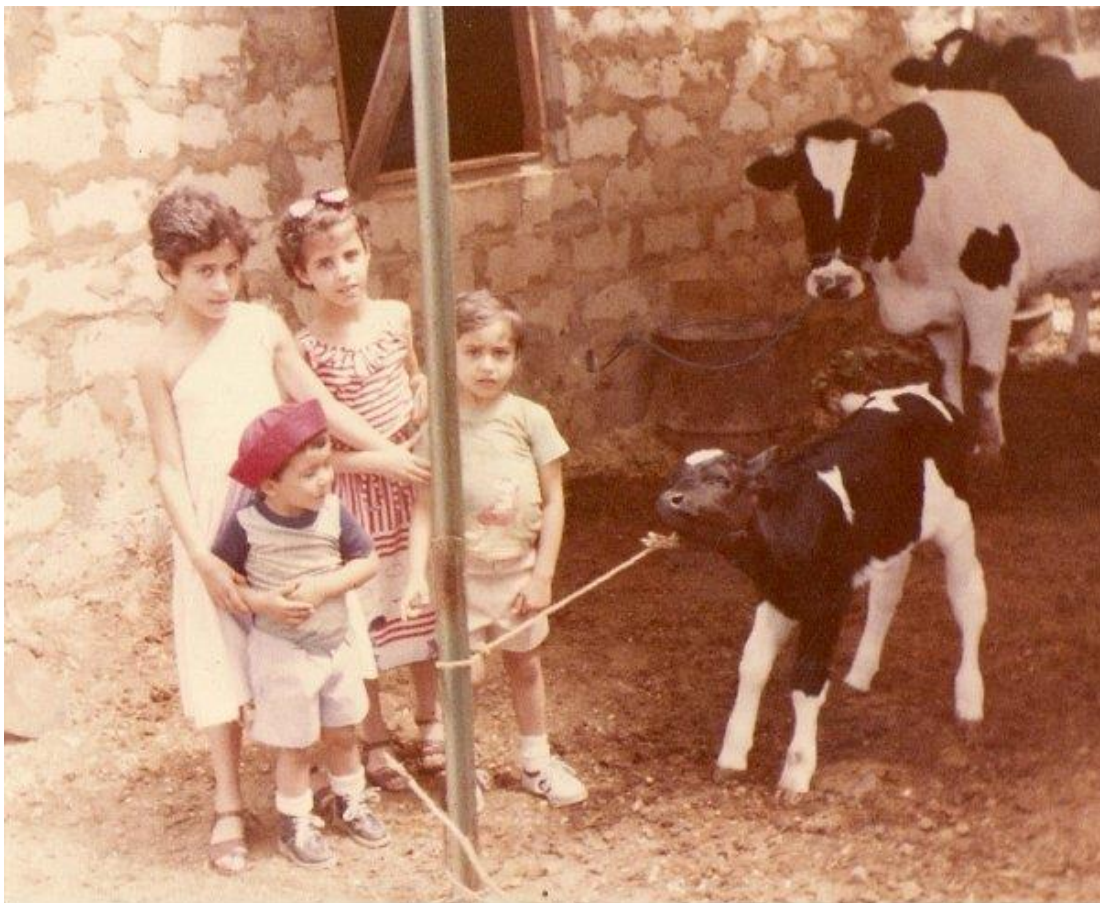
Elize bint Marcel Makhoul



Nawal Makhoul and her son Chady



Nawal (left), Joseph Asaad, Joyce Joseph, Tant Izabel Makhoul, Hiam



Baqrat Makhoul ☺; Uncle Makhoul in his store below; Fifi Marcel





Top: Magda Marcel AJ with husband Richard Bechalany & son Michael; Dariush Joseph Makhoul & his wife; Bottom: Hiam Makhoul (m.Zayyat) & family



Fifi Marcel & her Daughters; Marcel below; Suhaila (Joseph's wife)





Joseph Makhoul with son Dariush & granddaughter Niusha

Makhoul's kids include my childhood friend Joseph who married an Iranian lady (Suhaila) and now lives in Isfahan with his kids Darioush and Pascale; Marcel (RIP) was a hair-dresser (daughters Elise, Magda (m. Richard Bechalany, son Michael), Manal); daughters : Hiam (m. Zayat; son Fouad, married to Mimi Torabi) & Nawal (m. Joseph Asaad). Uncle Makhoul runs a grocery opposite El- Chehhara, with "tant" Izabel helping.



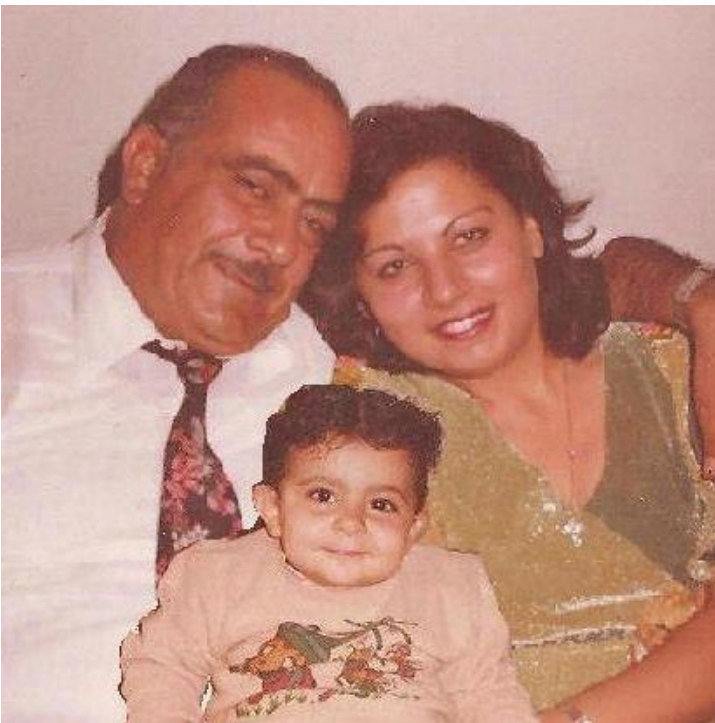
Rita, Andre, Tony and Gigi at Eliane's (Rita's Daughter) wedding; Rita right

Uncle Ayyoub (RIP) and wife Yvonne's sons: Alexi (in London, kids James, Joey & Jack)) and Tony (a singer-actor in Lebanon). Daughters Gigi (wife of Maroun), Rita (married to Abdo Naim AJ from Jouret el Ballout, her son Elie, & daughter Eliane el-Aaraj) and Andre (wife of uncle Asa'ad). Yvonne is the sister of Marie, the wife of Abdo Sleiman in Ghabeh.

Uncle Ayyoub ran a hardware shop in Brummana, now occasionally run by Tony. Alexi runs a garage in London. Uncle Ayyoub famously used to punch the ½ Lira coins to make them "Rondelles" (washers), when the price of the "Rondelle" became more than ½ Lira when the currency collapsed 😊.



Tony Ayyoub



Young Rita



Always the Joker – Alexi with Gigi and Maroun



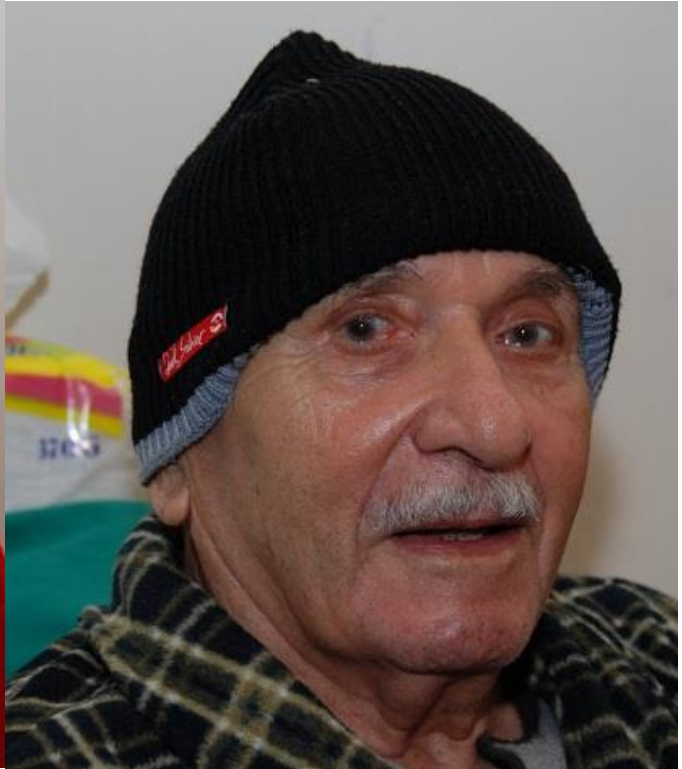
Rita, Elie & Eliane



Rita & Son Elie



Alexi & Gigi; Maroun, me & Raymond Nassib on right



Tant Yvonne & Uncle Ayyoub, RIP; Alexi's gang below





Afifi Nadim



Nadim (RIP)



Charbel Nadim, with son Samer, & Wife Ghenwa (bint Nohad Jamil)

Nadim's kids include Michel, Rony & Charbel (married to Nohad Jamil's daughter) and four daughters (Marcelle, Marlene, Aleen and Michleen). His mother Emm Nadim (Saada) was uncle Rashid Antoun's (husband of Alice Khattar) sister. His father Abdo Nadim (Abou Nadim to all) was our favorite tipsy, his name always mentioned in relation to Arak.



Charbel Nadim – what happened to the Arak Tradition? ☺; Roni; Bou Nadim



Aline Nadim el Chaar



Marcelle Nadim Rammouz



Zehri Kamil



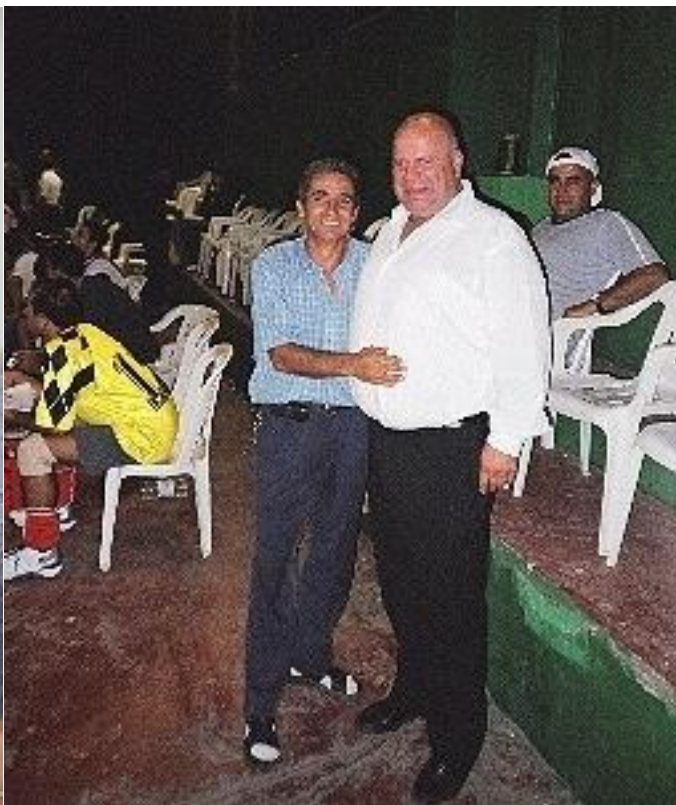
Haifa - Emm Shekri



Kamil's Family – Butros in Back; Elias Abdo Rustum, Haifa, Samira, Aida, Zehre and Gilbert in front



Zehri Kamil



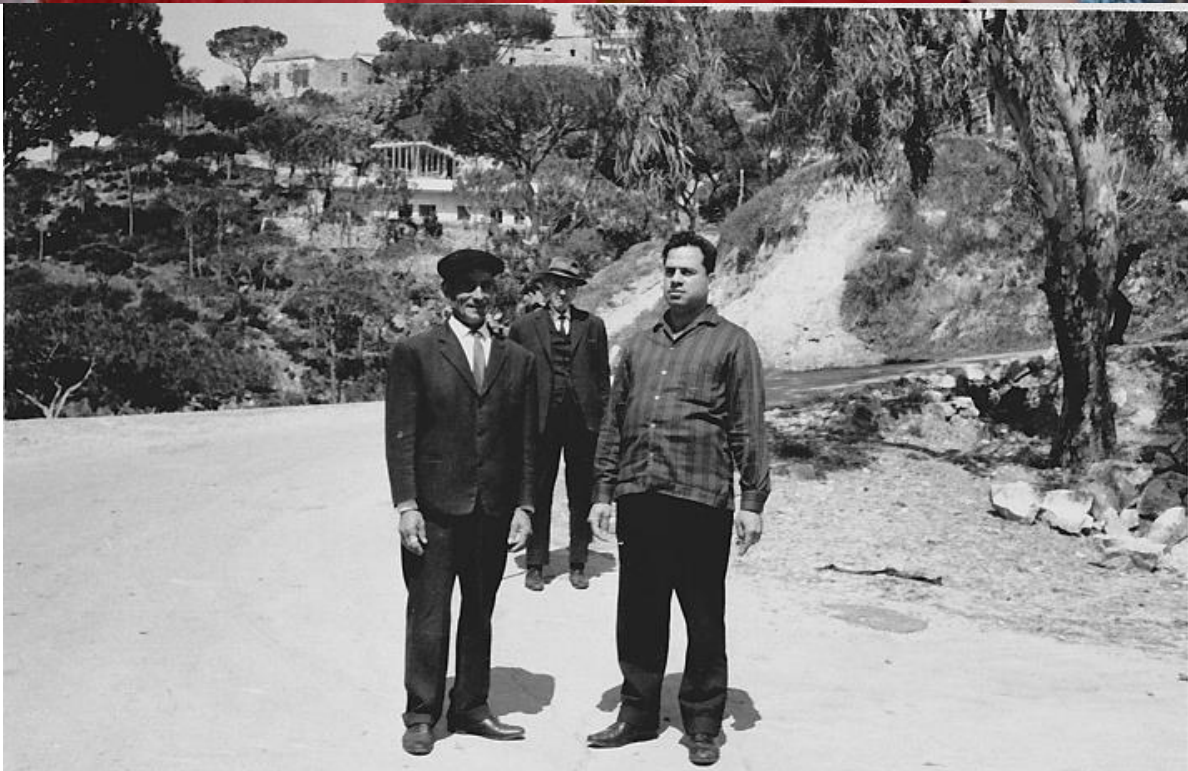
Shukri Kamil with Toni Sami



Shukri Kamil

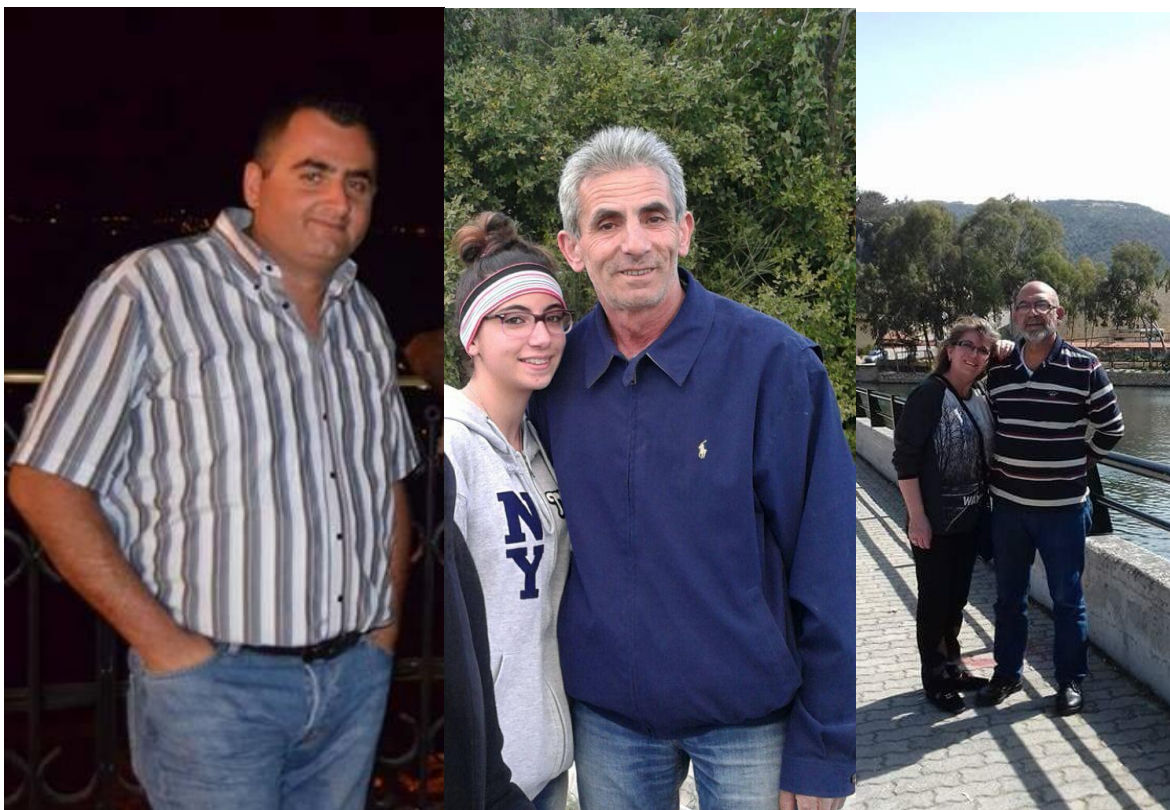


Zehri & JeanDarc with Karime (center)



Kamil with my Dad Sami; JeanD'arc Kamil above

Kamil's kids include Shukri (our war hero and shooter ☺, kids Kamil, Elie & Zalfa)), Butros, and his daughters Therese (m. Ghostine Fayyad), Samira (m. Rudolph Lati), JeanD'Arc (m. Mhanna), Gizelle (m. Khawand), Aida (m. Elias Abdo), Gilbert (m. Rafiq Barakat), Joceline (m. Michel Choueiry) & Zehri, who is very active in the Church.



Kamil Shukri; Butros & Daughter Joujou; Jano (Mhanna); Shukri with Sassine & Kamil below





Samira & mom Haifa



Butros Kamil & family

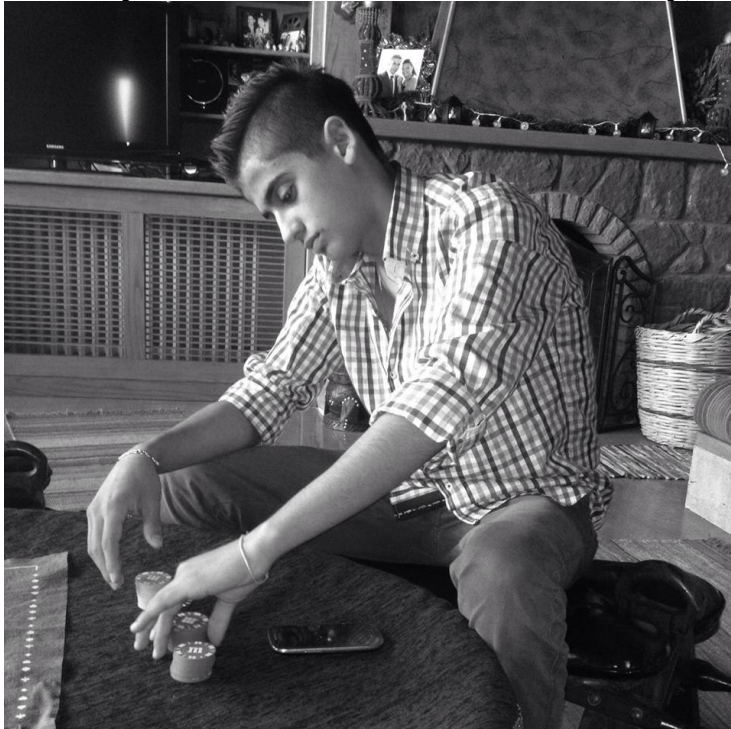




Clockwise: with Butros Kamil in Mtein Festival; Aida with Bishop Roland; Gizelle Kamil Khawand; Gilbert Kamil Barakat with daughters Ivon, Jill



Jocelyn Kamil & husband Michel Choueiry; son Jad; daughter Chantal below





Joe Butros Kamil drinking with his Dad ☺; Arak starts early in Kamil's household – Shukri slipped it into the baby Milk ☺

BEIT ISRAEL CHAYMOUNI

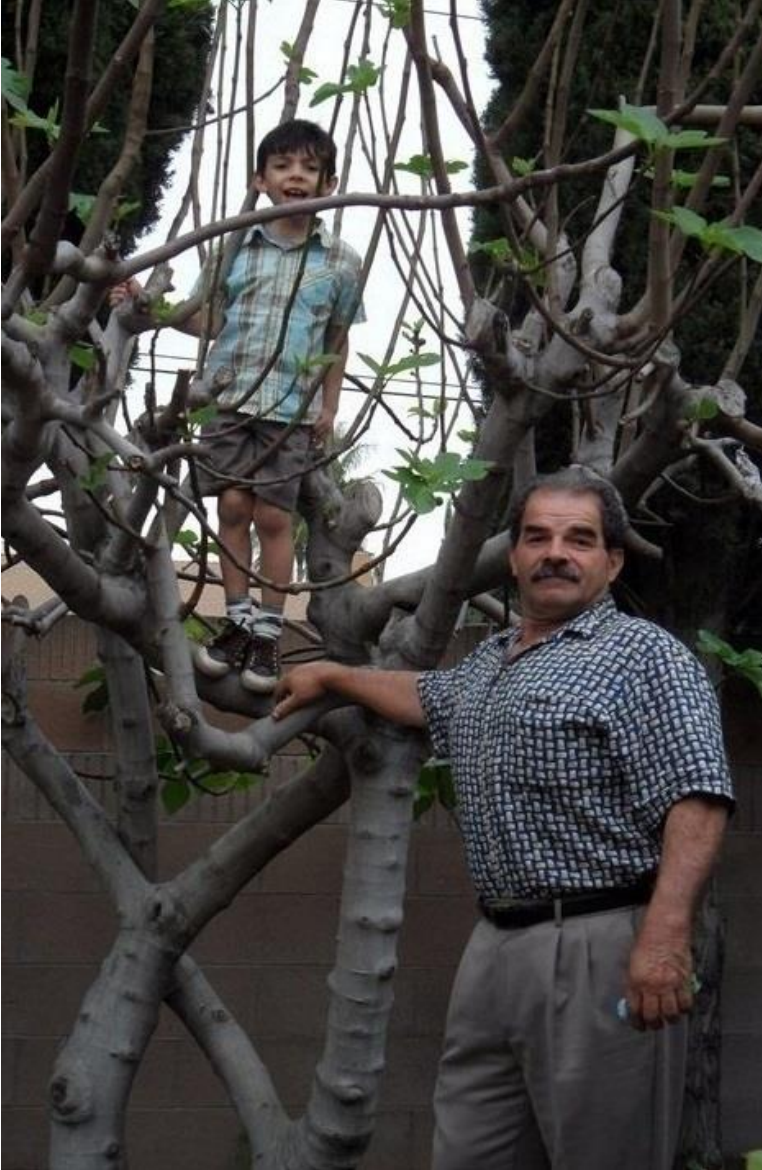
Ghassan & his famous Manta, using more oil than gas ☺, and the 2 hours it takes us to reach Baabdat, 5 miles away, stopping for oil, pushing a little to start, and laughing all the way. We had some good times in that car, the friendships compensating for the mechanics.

Gus with his “Farensi- Farenjy” (French-Foreign) labeled music tapes. With little education, he has done more than many educated do-littles. He now runs a gas station and mechanic shop in Los Angeles, with a young daughter and son. We laughed when he came to the US, and asked me to pick him up at the airport, near the “Walk-Don’t-Walk” sign. He argued vigorously with the Burger King lady who kept asking him if he “wanted Ketchup” with that, when he could barely ask for “Hamburger and Fries” ☺.

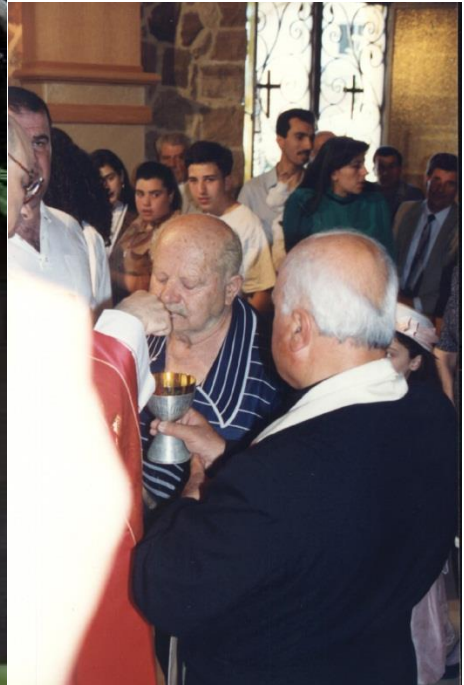
Israel (also Adel) and wife Angel (Nadim’s sister) also had Toni (killed during the war by our own militias), Kamal (working in Lebanon), Jean (previously in Los Angeles, California, now back in Lebanon) and 3 daughters (including Shafiqah (Shayla ☺), Amal, and the eldest Margo who died too early leaving two kids in Brummana at the beginning of the war).



Ghassan Israel Chaymouni



Ghassan with son Angelo in LA



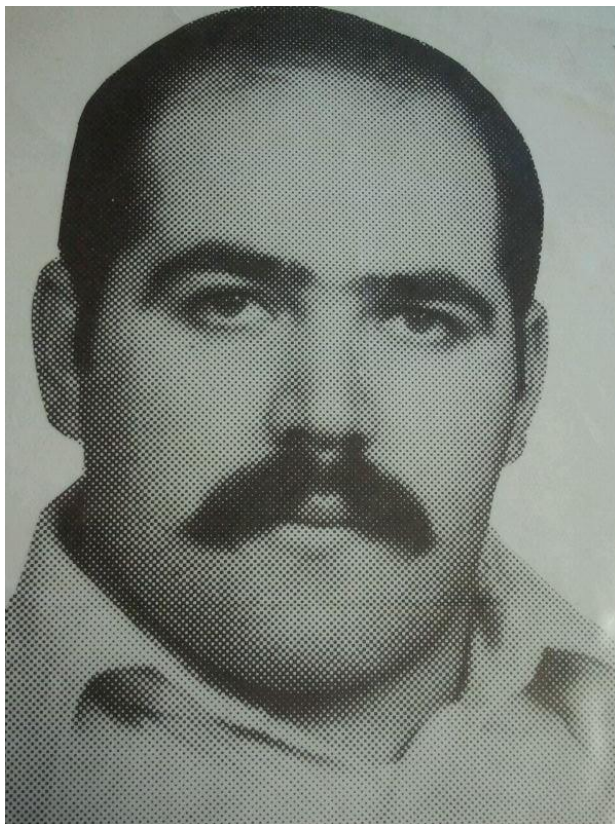
Israel Chaymouni



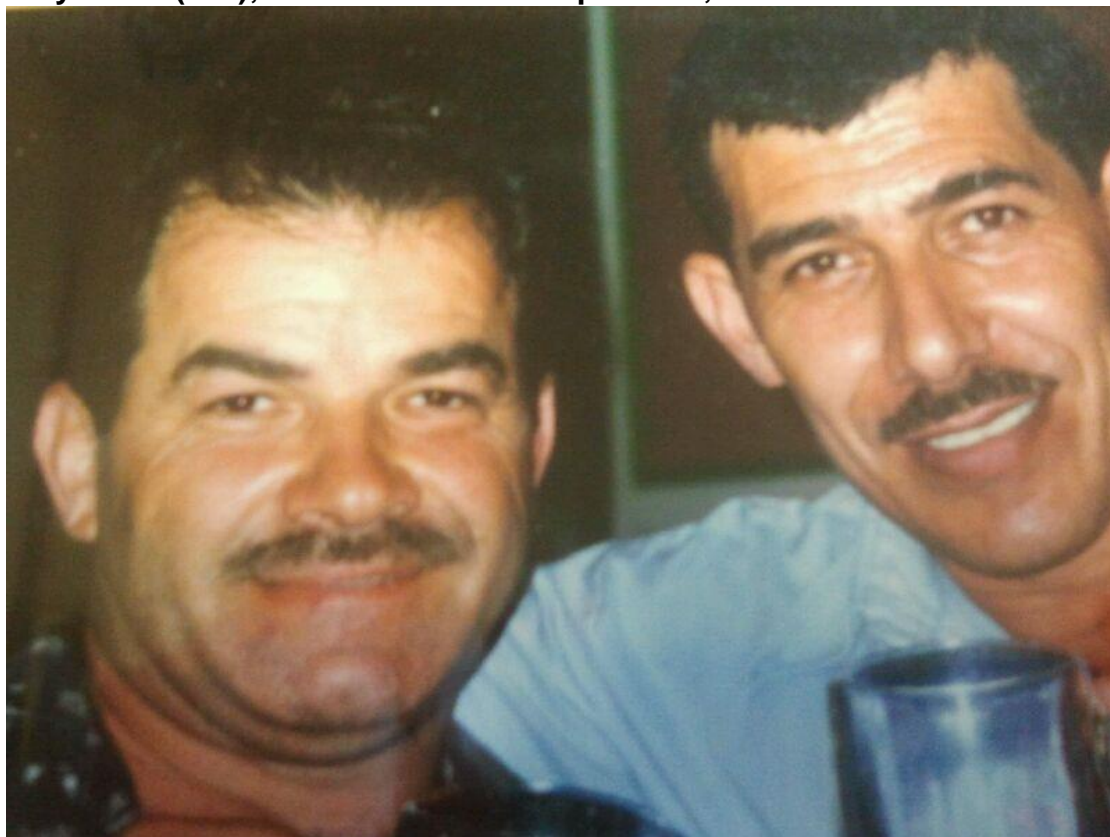
Gus & wife Coco Francis, LA

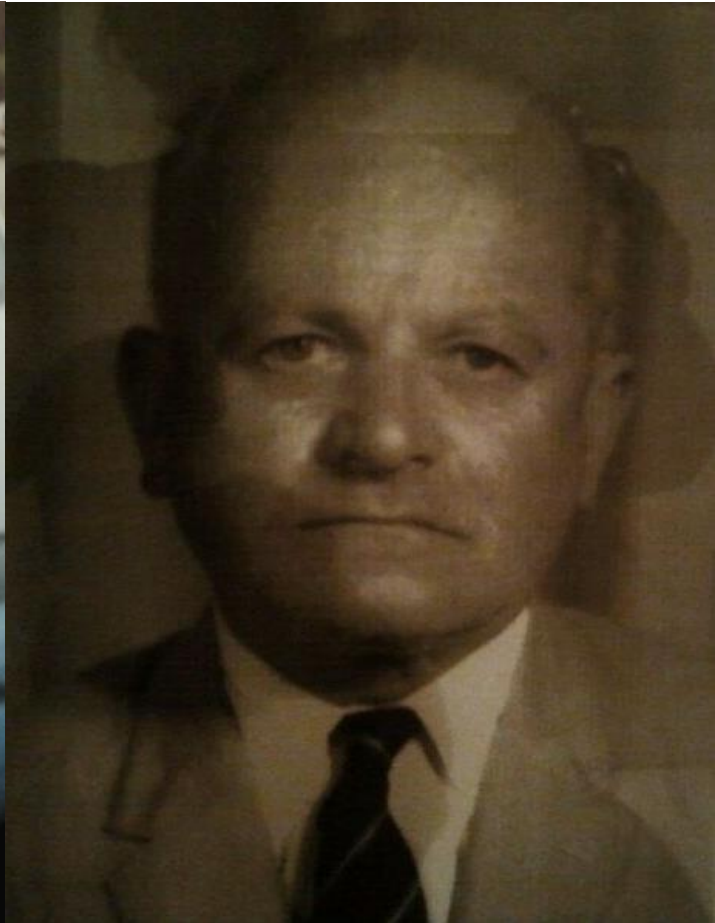


Gus at Daughter Angie's wedding



Tony Israel (RIP); Ghassan with Chafiq's kids; Ghassan and Kamal below





Angele bint Ghassan; Me3allem Israel; Amal with son Aziz below

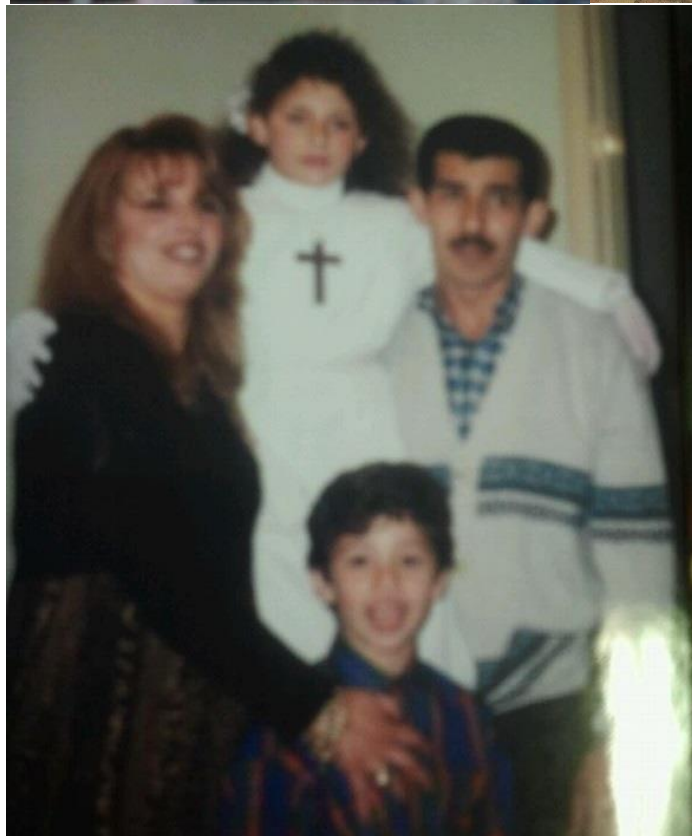




Gus with Margo's sons above; Gus with Jean (right) below; Angele



Clockwise: Chafiqa (Chayla) & husband Tony Khoury; Chayla & kids (right); Israel and Angele; Kamal & wife May, son Tony, Daughter Margo;



BEIT RASHID ABDALLAH



Rashid Abdallah Rashid (left) (with Semaan, Pierrot, Edmund Ghaleb)



Ghoul's (Henry & sister Najat wife of Rashid)





Ange Rashid

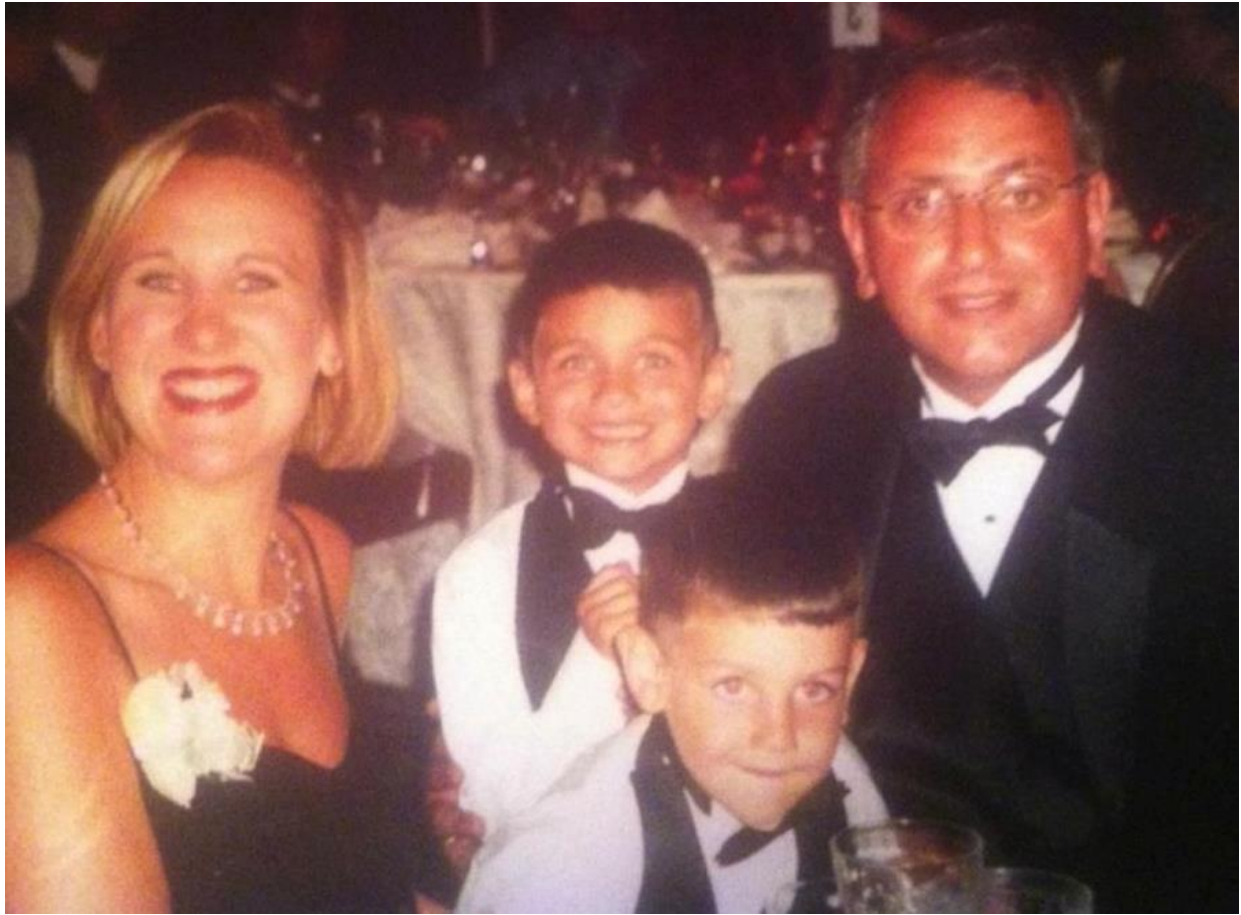


Alain Rashid



Rashid & Najat at Maska Dinner with Robert & Rustum

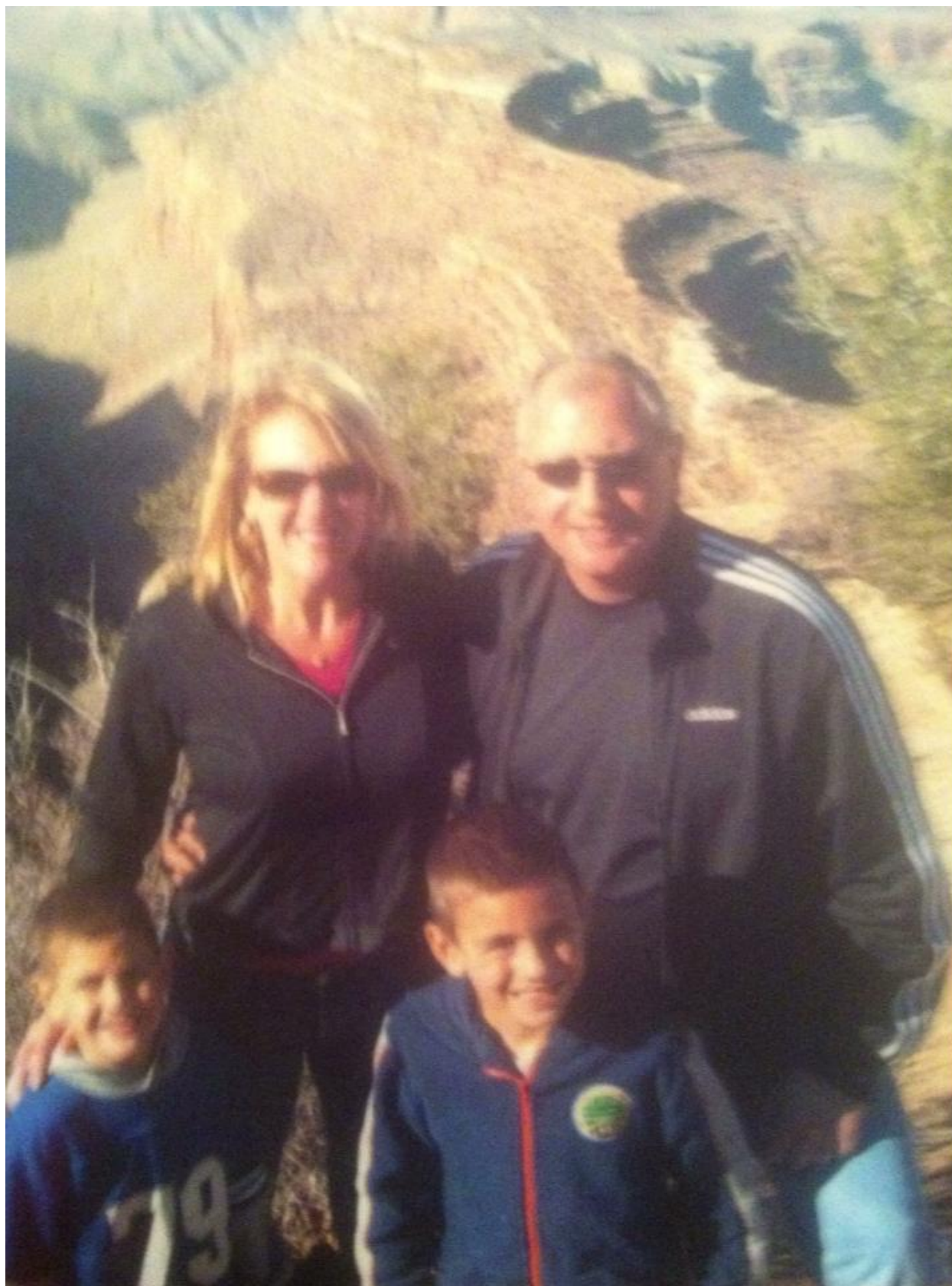
Rashid's kids include Ange (now in Saudi) and Alain, who runs a restaurant in Pennsylvania, US. Rashid runs a grocery in Brummana facing the Church in the main square, where he also lives now, having sold his village home (Qasr Abdallah, says Hafez ☺). His mom Warde is Bishara Sassine's sister. His brother Joseph (RIP) (Daughters Sabine & Sirine).



Sassine, Jean-Marie and Kids Andrew & Liam

Sassine & Ramzi, sons of Cha'aya Sassine, live in the US. Cha'aya's house was technically in Brummana, the family having moved there from Kherbe about 100 years ago, but we take Maska with us wherever we go 😊 (that part of Brummana is occupied territory 😊). Sassine runs a Telecom installation company in New Jersey.

Grandfather Sassine Semaan (brother of Youssef, Deeb, Fares & Gergy) settled in Hay-El-Kanayes in Brummana from Kherbeh circa 1900. He was in the silk (harrir) business and owned several "kerkhanis" (silk factories) in the Matn district. Sassine Semaan was married to Badiea Nawfal Abujawdeh and they had seven children: Takla, Nakhleh, Eugenie, Angel, Rosette, Therese and Shaya (Cha'aya).



Sassine & Jean-Marie with the boys



Shaya & Hania in front of their family home on Hay-El-Kanaes in Brummana circa 1983. Mar-Shaya church in background.



Saseen Semaan & Badeia in front of their home on Hay-El-Kanaes in Brummana circa 1961.



Shaya circa 1945 at graduation from American University Of Beirut

Eugenie, Hania and grandchildren of Saseen and Badiea in front of the family home in Brummana at Shaanineh (Palm Sunday) circa 1969. From left to right: Hania, Anwar Aswad, George Asmar, Saseen Shaya, Tony Asmar, Ramzi Shaya (held), Eugenie and Marie-Jeanne Asmar.



Badiea, her daughter Eugenie Aswad and grandchildren Nayla Aswad and Saseen and Ramzi Shaya Abujawdeh circa 1970.





"Khalo" Edmond Ghaleb Aj



Edmond & Sonia



Tant Sonia & Edmond Ghaleb



Waleed Edmond & wife Julie



Julie Yazbeck with Daughters (Grayce, Vida & Elizabeth Hall)



Vida Edmond (Sawaya)

Vida Edmond's Kids



Albert Edmond & Family

Khalo Edmond Ghaleb was a prominent Aboujaoude star until his passing a few years ago. In his days, he headed “Madrasset el Sanaye3”, a key institute in the young republic, and represented Lebanon in many international forums. His wife Sonia was a senior manager in ABN-Amro bank.

“Khalo” (he is my mom’s uncle, but we all called him Khalo) Edmond lived in Zalka, but returned “home” and built a house in Maska (ok, technically Oyouun, but we have occupied that part of Oyouun ☺) where his family now lives. His sons Walid and Albert are in the US, with Daughters Vida & Vina in Lebanon.

MASKA GUESTS

Many families have come and made Maska their home over the years. Some that have become close friends and stayed in touch, even after leaving Maska, include the Tego family, the Cherbakas and the Faraons.



Pierre Tego



Michel Faraon



Raymond Pharaon (RIP)

Pierre now runs a jewelry shop in Michigan. Michel is in Virginia (married to an Austrian Princess ☺). The Cherbaka Kids (aka al-Murtazaqa ☺) Nabil, Camil, Elie and Paul, and sister Josephine, lived in Maska for a few years. But they hung around and stayed a part of Maska, and now join us regularly in the US, along with their Bochi cousins.

The Marikian family lived at Daoud's house (downstairs), across from Emile Semaan's house. Father Istfan, mother Vartanoush, son Dikran, and three daughters Lucy, Zepure, and Sossy.



Inaya, Youssef, Renee, Elie Pharaon



Nabil, Elie, Paul, Camil Cherbaka with their wives (Christiane, Gina, Najwa)



Paul, Elie, Tant Nazira, Camil, Josephine, John Cherbaka

EVENTS

First Settlement – 1690's:

The Children of Abu-Nejm Khairallah, called “Abou-Jaoude” (The Generous One), moved from their homes in Deir el Harf (under the tutelage of the Abi-Ilama’a princes) to Maska, and settled the fields of Maska and Kherbet el-Adess. They lived a simple farming life, multiplying and spreading in the neighbouring area. In 1695, they built the Saint Takla Church.

Maska and Ghabeh in 1860:

The Druze of Ras El Metn attacked our villages in large numbers. The population hid in the Maska Church, protected by its 3-ft thick wall, and the low 6-inch door. Their axes failed to break through, and they moved on eventually as the news came of a gathering Maronite force in Bekfaya. The door with its marks is still preserved. Ghabeh was less lucky, with its church still under construction, and Father Ibrahim of Ghabeh was caught outside and killed.

First World War 1914-1918:

The war killed many villagers, from starvation, SmallPox (Jedri), Locusts, and Turkish oppression. Grandpa told of people following Turkish army mules, picking wheat remains from the dung. Many in the village died of small-pox, including my Grandpa’s first wife and son. About a third of the population died, despite help from Friends Missionaries in Brummana. Salim Naufal alone buried 50 people in Kherbe.

Second World War 1939-1945:

The village was little impacted by the passing Allied and Free-French Forces, who sojourned mainly in nearby Brummana. Jiddi Abu Fares and Uncle Butros Sleiman told stories of Allied soldiers they met in Brummana and Chtaura hotels.

1961 PSSP Socialist Rebellion:

The village came under security scrutiny since a small number of Aboujaoudes had Qawmi sympathies. Weapons searches took place, with

my dad hiding his “Klashin” in the backyard, to be dug up in 1973, rusted and useless ☺.

1967 “6-day” war:

Listening to news report of the first few days reporting valiant assaults and victories of the Arab armies, and then listening to martial music as the real news of the megalomaniacs’ humiliating defeat came through. “We expected them from the East, but they came at us from the West”, Nasser’s “explanation” for the embarrassment, is still a running Joke any time a local leader declares his monthly “Mother of All Battles”. What we didn’t know is that event would sow the seeds of Lebanon’s misery for the next 50 years.

1973 of the Palestinian Fedayeen:

The fear of the PLO coming up the valley, and the whole village mobilizing for defence. Our comical first military adventures in our village during the 1973 Army-PLO clashes, where young boys formed fighting groups to protect the village, with assorted old guns and checkpoints, whose often forgotten “passwords” were often complemented by a few choice words from village elders we tried to stop- turns out cusswords are good passwords as well, and we learnt a few new ones ☺.



1975 Civil war:

A year after I left to study in the USA, the war that turned our idyllic home into Hell. Our boys provided heroic support for the Christian cause in Tel el Zaatar (stories of Tony carrying a cannon singlehandedly), Mar Moussa, Tarshish, and elsewhere. Maska and Ghabeh were shelled often, one of the shellings killing Maggie daughter of Michel Kaisar in Ghabeh, along with the child of the Gemayel family across the street from our house. Another shell in Brummana killed Najwa, Uncle Fawzi's eldest daughter.



Youth at Patrol (Eddie shown)

The loss of the kindly giant **Tony Chaymoni** who was killed in militia reprisals (for the death of Tony from Roumieh in a Printania Cinema misunderstanding with the Brummana Kataeb), even though he was unconcerned. This giant (his punch compared to a mule kick by the doctor

treating his adversaries, with his own “Nasha’a Faja’a” political comic party ☺), the son of an orphan raised by the Lazarist nuns (called Israel, who had amusing delusions of Empire and Majesty that entertained the crowd at the local barbershop) had spent a night saying goodbye before my immigrant departure, not knowing it was to be our last goodbye. I have learnt this lesson many times since, especially with the departure of youth- love your friends like there is no tomorrow, because one day there will not be. Hug them and tell them you care, because one day you may not be able to.

1982 Israeli invasion:

Heralded by 80 Syrian airplanes taking aim at Lebanon’s rocks and mountains ☺ for a “crash” exercise, one of the few their Alawite religious minority Pilots could make (lest they run away with the planes ☺).

Currency collapse:

The decline of the Lebanese Lira during the war, a-la-Weimar, going from 2 pounds to the \$ to 3000. Seeing my aunt Olga’s retirement go from \$20,000 to a few dollars, or my uncle’s recently acquired fortune (through sale of ancestral lands) disappear in a few weeks, teaches a lesson in the passing of the material values of this world, and the indirect misery war brings to all. I still remember buying falafels for 25 piasters (35 piasters for extra!) and 25 piaster Jallab drinks.





Imad died too soon. His Father Edward also died young in an elevator fall while at work.

Tragedies of Passing Youth:

The sad loss of Naji son of Amin, in a motorcycle accident. Naji, a rebel and full of life, was a friend of all, and his loss affected the town immensely. The death followed by young Elie Tego's death in a similar accident, had the youth of the town reeling at the events.

The early death of Raymond Amin in France also saddened us, uncle Amin suffering the multiple loss.

The early death of Fadi, son of Izabel and Maroun in Ghabeh, also a sad event for Ghabeh and Maska alike.

Our Mukhtar Ghosn died young too, but older than his brothers, his fierce determination an example to all. Joseph, Hekmat and others of the family also passed early.

Emad & his dad Edward also passed away too soon, Edward a gentle soul, felled in an elevator accident.

In death, sickness, and every occasion, the village pulls together as one hand. You always feel a part of family. At least until politics gets in the way.

2005 Cedar Revolution:

After many years of living under Syrian control, which unfortunately had some village members cooperating with the occupier and spying on their country-folks, the village rose in defiance and sent a large contingent to the 2005 March 14 Cedar Revolution demonstrations in Beirut Martyr's Square that ended up expelling the Syrian Forces.





The Maska and Ghabeh folks have been patriotic citizens, always active in the affairs of the country and the Church. This was proudly displayed during the Cedar revolution and following demonstrations.



Their spirit is also displayed in civic events (such as demonstrating for a bridge for Jall-el-Dib on behalf of the Aboujaoude family).



Maska also recently joined the big welcome Lebanon gave to the Pope on his visit to Lebanon.



Maska Crew at Pope's visit



I-Maska Nezlet 3al Sa7ha

Village politics:

Amusing and sad, a single family, all Maronites, all Aboujaoudes, fighting over issues they don't understand, and supporting characters for simple partisanship. It was first the Lahouds against Michel el Murr (famous for bringing asphalt right before the election- I always joke to Lebanese visiting in NJ that I am a Murr supporter, which is why the roads here are good). It has now turned into a Tayyar (Aoun) vs Lebanese Forces conflict- cousin Tony leading the Forces group (Abillama their rep, our neighbor in Oyoun); my brothers (yes- sorry ☺) leading the Aounis.

In the old days, a dispute about Fahid's veranda (extending slightly over the footpath ☺) led to letters to president Chamoun (a copy kept by uncle Abdo). At worst, some fisticuffs might happen (as in the early 70's, when the Khoury and Ghosn's fought in Church over an invitation to singer Wadih el-Safi). A fight in the Mala'ab with a visiting team usually brought the village together, as when a visiting player stabbed Maroun, and aunt Laurice straightened him out with a Jemmaleh (wooden branch) ☺.

Recent local politics Shenanigans have resulted in an actual **split of the two villages Maska and Ghabeh**, long united by blood, with amusing conflicts over boundaries, and public/governmental disputes. Many refuse to pay taxes to the Ghabeh Municipality just started, insisting on being Maskawites instead.

The recent conflict over the church that resulted in its closing for the first time in hundreds of years, continues to simmer, as “peace” negotiations continue between brother and brother. Such is the way of the world.



“Peace” Meal between Maska and Ghabeh ☺



السياسة تستحدث «الغابة» وتغيّب «المسقى»



منطقة حقارية واحدة في المتن تم تسميتها «بشخطة» قلم

المتن - رندلي جيور

كان ياما كان... بلدتان مثلاً صلتان جغرافياً، وتلعان في منطقة عارضة واحدة. أطهما من عائلة أبو جودة، ويتنمون جميعاً إلى طائفة واحدة. كان لهم مختار واحد ويصلون دروسهم في مدرسة واحدة ويصلون لدى كاهن واحد ولكن السياسة دخلت على الخط لتفرّق وتفسد... إنهما بلدتا المسقى والغابة في المتن الأوسط. حكايته عائلة عائلية واجتماعية طويلة وصلت إلى عتبة ماساوية على أمل أن تكون النهاية سعيدة. الصلة وما فيها أن البلدتين عاشتا بأمان الله حتى العام 2001، التاريخ «المسؤول» الذي أصدر فيه وزير الداخلية آنذاك الياس المر قراراً باستحداث بلديات جديدة «على أن تبني على استطلاعات آراء الفاعليات». وصل القرار إلى المتن فتلّفه مختار المسقى في حينه إدوار أبو جودة الذي طالب ببلدية تشمل المسقى والغابة وفري مجاورة أخرى ووقع على الطلب للنا أمالي المسقى. ولا من مجيب.

«راحت الاتهام وجاءت الاتهام» وحلّ العام 2003. تلمّ مختار بلدة الغابة هذه المرة بطلب استحداث بلدية في ترثته لكن الانطلاقة كان «مكسوكاً» بأمرها لأنها كالتالي: عبد الناجين في المسقى 362 أما في الغابة 250. وإذا نظرت إلى خريطة المتن ترى مساحة واسعة كذب في داخلها «المسقى». وفي زاويتها الشمالية الغربية ترى مساحة صغيرة كذب عليها «الغابة». ضف إلى ذلك أن دليل المناطق الحارّة والمدن والقرى في لبنان الصادر عن إدارة الإحصاء المركزي في العام 1998 يحدد مساحة لقرية المسقى وقرية الحدس بـ 225 هكتار لكل منهما فيما الترتت الغابة بجماعة NON DETERMINE ومختصرها ND ومعناها «غير محددة». وفي «كزبورة» على الطريق بلك «ابن الضبعة» على الحدود، دلائق سرية تثر بها في الغابة وأطول منها بكثير هي تلك التي يقول من أنك أنك في المسقى كما أن الغابة اسمها أصلاً «غابة المسقى». لم يسمع المعنويون إلى صوت أمالي المسقى فيما لبوا سرعياً مطلب مختار الغابة فأنشئت «بلدية الغابة» من دون تحديد مساحاتها إذ تم تعيين لجنة لترسيم الحدود في العام 2007 من قبل وزير الداخلية حسن السبع «لم تسمع حتى اليوم». المهم أن التسميم «بشخطة» قلم على خريطة من ورق ويابر رئيس البلدية أعماله بصورة اعتباطية، يحصل الضرائب والرسوم ويحدد العفارات «وفقاً لمعرفته الشخصية».

ومن حصل أصلاً على رخصة عمار من مختار المسقى لريما - «موفاتل المختارية التي تعود إلى العام 1863 وأيضاً 1960 شاعرة» - بات يستحصل على رخص تحسين وترميم مثلاً من بلدية الغابة. لم يقلل أمالي المسقى بهذا «الإعلاء» على أرضهم وأملهم والجمع التاريخي والجغرافي «فيدوا بإرسال الكتاب ثلثي الآخر إلى المعنويين بواسطة المختارين السابق وال الحالي «لللمن ببلدية أنشئت على أساس نطاق بلدي غير نهائي وغير قانوني».

نمذ الراوي. وعلى الرغم من أن المر طالب في الانتخابات النيابية الأخيرة بدعم المسقى له على أن يحل المسألة مباشرة بعد الانتخابات إلا أن شيئاً لم يحصل. لكن مختار المسقى إميل أبو جودة يرفض الكلام في السياسة ويقول للبناء «إننا لا نريد إلا الحق لا أكثر ولا أقل فنحن نطالب بإنشاء بلدية منذ العام 1963 ولا مانع لدينا أن تكون بلدية مشتركة ومطالب برفع الظلم المستمر منذ العام 2001 خصوصاً وأنه لم يتبلّغ حتى الساعة بوجود أي ملف لبلدية الغابة الذي على أساسه أنشئت. وبأسف لأن المعنويين حكوا على المسقى بالإعدام ولم يسمعوا إلى دفاعها حتى. فيما ينفق رئيس بلدية الغابة عبر البناء أن يكون كلام أمالي الغابة والفعاليات فيها صححاً ويقول: «إنه كلام في الهواء وفارغ المعنويين وليس أكثر من مرطبات وخرف ويسال هل يجوز أن تستحدث وزارة الداخلية ببلدية بشكل عشوائي؟ أما عن إمكان قبول الغابة ببلدية مشتركة مع المسقى فهجيب: عندما يطرح علينا الأمر نفكر به ويؤكد أن ملف بلديته قانوني ورسمي وموجود في وزارة الداخلية. الانتخابات البلدية على الأبواب فيما المسقى ثلثي بلا بلدية حتى الساعة وتنتظر هذه الفرصة عليها تستعيد ما تحبته حقاً مهوراً وسرفاً مطروعة ولكن الآمل شغل لأن «المشكلة لا تستطع شيئاً مع الصخر العكس» وأكثرية ما في الدولت شعر عكس «والمشكلات للبال...»

تصل إلى أمالي المسقى إجابات واضحة من المعنويين: ويقلل لماذا لم تنشأ بلدية واحدة للبلدين أو في أسوأ الحالات لماذا لم تنشأ للمسقى بلدية خاصة بها خصوصاً وأن هذا المطلب تحمله أجيال المسقى منذ العام 1964 بشكل جدي ورسمي؟ علامات استنهام لم تولد إلا المشكلات بين أبناء العائلة الواحدة، فهوما ينزعون الزينة لبعضهم البعض بحجة مصروف الكهرياء ويوما تكسر السيارات ويوما يمنع أناس من الوصول إلى أرزاقهم. وآخر الفصول كانت أن دعيت لاثام المتن مارلين حداد إلى اجتماع في 24-4-2009 لكنها عادت والخلة. وزير الداخلية زياد بارود استلم الملف كاملاً منذ أكثر من شهر بالإضافة إلى كتاب من مختار بلدة المسقى لكنه أجاب بأن لا علم له بالخبر ولم يجيب على سؤال «البناء» التي طالبت بتوضيح لمدة أكثر من أسبوع. البعض يجيب في السياسة - وقد يكون معه حق - فيقول إن الغابة تؤيد ميشال المر سياسياً أما المسقى فتعارضه ولذلك أنشئت بلدية في الغابة فيما تفاصصت المسقى والدليل أن أكثر من شخص سمع المر يقول «راحت المسقى، طارت المسقى». ويتحدث كثيرون عن ضغوط ومصالح وقد لجأت حداد مرة على محامين «خلصوني من أمين (أي رئيس بلدية الغابة) واسألوا وزير الداخلية لأن لا علاقة لي بالموضوع. وما يسترجعي إنحاز للمسقى لأن عندي جواسيس». وهذا على

وأيضاً ولا من مجيب. تلك للخطّة فيختفي محدك ليعود بعد دقائق مثابطة مجموعة من الأوراق. يضعها على الطاولة وإذ بها خرائط صادرة عن مركز الاستطلاع عن بعد ثلثت عدم وجود ما يسمى بمنطقة الغابة ووجدتها المسقى تظهر بوضوح. وشهية لها صادرة عن المديرية العامة للتخطيط المدني وأخرى عن مديرية الشؤون الجغرافية في لواء الجيش وثارتها 2007، علماً أنه بعد سنتين صدرت خريطة أخرى عن المرجع نفسه مختلفة عن الخريطة السابقة لكنها هذه المرة غير موهوبة بختم رئيس المحفوظات الجغرافية. أما الخريطة التي «قطعها» رئيس بلدية الغابة على ذوقه، فتتلّص ما يزيد عن ثلثي المساحة من المسقى. بل أكثر من ذلك فإن مختار بلدة الغابة يحدد في كتيبه بلدة الغابة كالتالي: متاخمة لبرمانا جنوباً وللعجون ومار شعباً شمالاً مسطعاً المسقى من الوجود. هي التي تتاخم الغابة من الجهتين الشرقيّة والجنوبيّة والشرقيّة الغربيّة ودلماً وفق الملف الذي حضر بلخطة على الطاولة. وتكر سجدت الاستتال: كيف يصار إلى إعداد خريطة جديدة قبل تحديد مساحة الغابة وإبراجها ضمن المستندات الرسمية؟ كيف تمارس بلدية الغابة أعمالها بشكل اعتباطي منذ إنشائها في العام 2004 فيما كافة المراجع الرسمية صامتة ومكتوفة الأيدي؟ لماذا لم تسمع لجنة ترسيم الحدود بعد؟ أين هو المحافظ وأين اللثام وأين وزير الداخلية؟ لماذا لم



Maska “Peace Conference” in Bkerki after Church dispute ☺

The Old Church Fight – 1965

The Ghosns and Khoury branches of the family have a long history of dispute, mostly about “prestige”, almost never about anything concrete. Wadih el Safi is Lebanon’s foremost singer, and an invitation by the Khourys to attend St Taqla’s festival without consulting the Ghosns started a small riot, resulting in lawsuits, a sentence to imprison my Dad and uncle Henry, eventually overturned in appeal. The witness reports are conflicting and amusing. Since most of the participants have now passed to a better place, I can perhaps share the record(s). ☺

الشاهدة ماري انسدراوس

بانها اتت الى الكنيسة تصلي وكان الكاهن قد باشر بالذبيحة
الالهية والمترلسون باناشيدهم وفي هذه الاثناء دخل ميشال ابو جوده
وتفوه بالعبارات التالية لا بدنا نقدر ولا بدنا من يخدم القديس
بدنا نسكر الكنيسة فعمد بعض المصلين الى اخراجه من الكنيسة

سؤال الاستاذ سماحه اجابت ،

بانها شاهدت بعد اخراج ميشال ابو جوده من الكنيسة السيد سامي
ابو جوده يدخل اليها وخلفه شخص يدعى خليل عواد ورفساق
له ومن ثم يحصل اشتباك بينهم بدون ضرب عندئذ تركت الكنيسة .

بالسؤال اجابت بانها سألت شكرالله ابو جوده خارج هذه القاعة اذا
كان هو ميشال ابو جوده لان هناك تشابه بينه وبين شقيقه وان شكرالله اجابها
بالنفي .

سؤال الاستاذ رزق اجابت بانها تصطاف في بيت اسعد ابو جوده وانها

لم تشاهد حنا ابو جوده اثناء اعادت وقد شاهدت البير اثنائها .

المشاهد عيسو سسلويمان

انه سمع ضوضاء امام باب الكنيسة ولما استفسر عن الامر
شاهد بطرس ابو جوده واقف ارضا فعمل هو وكاهن الرعية واحد افراد
الدرك على اعانته وكان السيد عبد الله ابو جوده استولى على العصاة
من بطرس واخذ يضرب بها ويحرقه بانته اصاب ميشال وخليل عواد لانهما كانا
واقفين على الباب لصد الناس .

سؤال الاستاذ سحاحه اجاب بان ميشال ابو جوده كان واقفا على باب الكنيسة
ويمنع الناس من الدخول لسبب جهله ولم يشاهد احد من الطرفين ما عدا عبد الله
يتضارب مع الآخر بسؤال عبد الله ابو جوده اجاب بان ميشال ابو جوده هو ابن
خاله

افساده العريف حسن مرسي

كرر مضمون التحقيق المنظم منه ،
سؤال الاستاذ سحاحه اجاب بانه هذا هو الذي عمل التحقيق ،
وادلى بانه كان موجود قرب كنيسة مار تقلا ليلة العيد وقد حضر المطرب
وديع الصافي للاشتراك في خدمة القدا فطلب منه احد الاشخاص عرف بعبد
ان انه يدعى اسعد خمار ابو جوده بان ينصرف خوفا من المشاكل فافتشل وديع
الذكرور وذهبي بعدئذ سمع ضوضاء قرب باب الكنيسة من الداخل ولما استفسر
عن الامر شاهد كل من سامي وهنري من جهة وميشال وشكر الله ابو جوده من جهة
ثانية متأسكين باليدي دون ضرب عندئذ تدخل بينهم لخصم الخلاف واخرجهم
من الكنيسة واتوا اخرجهم منها شاهد العدسي وعليه بطرس ابو جوده واقف بسبب
الازدحام وقد عمل احد الاشخاص عبد الله ابو جوده على اخذ العصاة (من الدركي جرجس
ديب وهي العصاة التي كانت بحوزة بطرس الذكرور .
عمل من الحرر الكاتب

سؤال الاستاذ سحاحه ، اجاب بانه سمع ميشال ابو جوده يتنوه امام
الكنيسة هالضبعة ضبعة بقصر ما يتسائل الخدمة ، سؤال الاستاذ رزق اجاب بانه
هو الذي اخذ العصاة من فارس ابو جوده بعد الحادث ولم يكن يهدو بها وكان قد جلبها
من البيت بعد الحادث

سؤال عبد الله رشيد اجاب بانه اخذ العصاة منه خوفا من استعمالها وبالسؤال
اجاب بانه شاهد اثناء الحادث وبعده توفيق والبير وشكر الله وميشال ابو جوده .

الشاهد الدرسي جرجس ديسب

اثناء الذريعة في المسقى سمعت خوضاء في الكنيسة ولما استفسر عن الامر شاهد كل من ميشال وشكر الله ابـــــو جوده من جهة وسامي وهنري من جهة اخرى متناصكين في الالهي فتدخل والعريف حسن وخسم الخلاف ولم يشاهد اي من الطرفين يضرب الاخر وانه شاهد اثناء الحادث سامي وفارس وميشال وهنري وبطرس وشكر الله ابو جوده وخليل عواد ونسيب وعبد الله ابو جوده .

وحضر بعد الحادث توفيق وحنا والبير ابو جوده سؤال الاســـــتاذ سماحه ، بان بطرس ابو جوده وقع على باب الكنيسة من التدافيش وان الشنائم كانت متبادلة من الطرفين وحضر بعد انتهاء الحادث توفيق ابو جوده واخوانه واخذوا يوجهون الشنائم التي سامي ابو جوده ورفاقه وانه شاهد خليل عواد خارجا من باب الكنيسة وكان يشتتم .

الشاهد الاخ ايلسي صافى

قال ، بانه شاهد شخص اسمه اسعد متجسم يهجم على المشاجرين وفقـــــدم على ضرب بعضهم وزوجته متمسدة به تم شاهد شخص اخر واقع ارضا بداخل الكنيسة ويغرب الباب ويتلقى ضربا من اناس لا يعرفهم .

بسؤال الاستاذ رزق اجاب ،

ان الشخص الذي يتلقى الضرب هو مهاجر غريب عن البلده .

بسؤال الاستاذ سماحه اجاب ،

بان الحادث بدا خارج الكنيسة ومن ثم تطور في الكنيسة ولم يشاهد شخصا يعتلي المذبح لينزل اللاهث وانه لم يتبين له معالم الشخص الواقع في الارض لان الناس كانوا متجمهرين فوقه وحوله وانه يجـــــزم بان حنا ابو جوده الذي يعرفه معرفة شخصية بانه لم يكن موجود اثناء المشاجرة في الكنيسة ويعتقد بان سبب الحادث يعود الى ان وديع الصافي افهم (بلن سبب الحادث يعود) بعدل خدمه القداش وبان مشايل سوف تحصل وقد قال له الشخص المدعو اسعد ويعتقد بانه من نسب ابو جوده .

الشاهد ماري الياس الفول

قالت ، ان خلاف حصل ضمن الكنيسة واشتبك الجميع فيما بينهم . وقد شاهدت احد الاشخاص ياخذ العصا من بطرس ابو جوده ويضرب بها ميشال وهي تجهل هوية هذا الشخص وكانت تسمع من ان الى اخر له يا سامي له يا هاري له يا فارس وكان بطرس ابو جوده متحمس للخلاف وان خليل عواد ضرب بعنف من قبل المتشاجرين وان الذين ضربوا خليل عواد هم نفس المتشاجرين الذين ضربوا ميشال ابو جوده .

وبسؤال الاستاذ سطاحه اجابست ،

ان المشاجرة حصلت بالقرب منها وهي تجهل المتخاصمين حتى بوجوههم .

افسدة الاب طانيوس عون

افيد بان بتاريخ البارحة وحوالي الساعة ٧ تقريبا كنت معين قداس مسائي بمناسبة عيد القديسة تقلا في كنيسة المسقى وكلفت الاب اميل ابي حبيب من رومية للابتداء في القداس وانا كنت خارج الكنيسة اتحدث مع العريف حسن بشأن العيد وكان عدة اشخاص من رجال ونساء داخل الكنيسة وخارجها ان سمعت ضجة داخل الكنيسة . دخلت الكنيسة مع العريف المذكور وشاهدت اسعد خطار يصرخ وامرأته متمسكة به ، عندها دخلت وقلت له يا اسعد انصرف الى منزلك وبالفعل ذهب اسعد الى منزله ، انا لم اشاهد احد يضرب الاخر ولم يكن بيد احد عصا فعملت على اخراجهم من الكنيسة مع دورية الدرك وفسرناهم عن بعضهم وبعد ان رقت الحالة عدنا وتابعنا القداس فخرجت بعدها الى باحة الكنيسة واخذت اثلث يوم على سبب الحادث ان حصل ضوضاء وضجيج من الاهالي شاهدت كل من ميشال يوسف وشقيقه شكر الله من جهة وسامي وهنري ابي جوده من جهة اخر متمسكين بالايدي تدخلت مع جملة اشخاص بمساعدة الدرك لم اشاهد احد يضرب الاخر ولم يكن اي شخص بيده عصا او اي آلة حادة ولكن سمعت ميشال يقول انضربت ووضع يده على عينيه وشاهدت كذلك شخص هزم راقع في الارض تقدمت ورفعته بيدي وهذا كل ما حصل وبعدها عاد الهدوء ولم يعد اي شيء من المشاجرات واكملنا القداس وان الشخص الذي وقع على الارض يدعى بطرس ابراهيم ابو جوده وعلى ما اعتقد ان سبب الخلاف هو نفوذ محلي مزمع وهذه افادتي .

The main thing in common between the stories: A fight happened in Maska, between Aboujaoudes ☺.

الشاهد جورج عواد

قال ، بانه شجار حصل في داخل الكنيسة بسبب معانعة وديع الصافي من خدمة العداس وذلك بعدما خسم الخلاف خارج الكنيسة بين ميشال ابو جوده وهنري ابو جوده ، وقد سمع كل من سامي وهنري يطلبان بداخل الكنيسة من شخص بوجوب الخروج وعندما تدخل خليل عواد لخسم الخلاف في داخل الكنيسة نال جزاءه ضربا بالتراسي من سامي وهنري المدنورين وقد ساعدهما اسعد ابو جوده ان لان يشترك بالضرب تم نجره امرانه ويعود .

وان بقية المتشاجرين فلم يقرر من هم

سؤال الاستاد رزق اجاب ، بانه شاهد ميشال مضروبا ولم يعرف ممن ضربه وانه شاهد شترالله داخل الكنيسة وشاء نشره عن الاشـــراك بالمشاجرة . وقد شاهد اسعد يهجم على شترالله وشاهد اسعد يمد يده نحو شترالله المدنور .

سؤال الاسناد سماحه اجاب ،

بانه من بلدة عاليه وقد اشار الى فارس الموجود في القاعة وان العدعي عليهم الحاضرين لم يشاهدهم اتناء المشاجرة وهم يوفيق وحنان وسيب وعبد الله .

ولم يشاهد البس بين المتشاجرين وان ميشال ابو جوده نفوه بما معناه الظاهر ببيصه بها الضيعة وجود وديع الصافي ودير بامو وابو نخدموا العداس .

ولم يحضر الشاهد عبده ابو جوده تقرر صرف النظر .

حضرة السيدين سامي وهنري فضل الله ابو جودة المحترمين

بعد السلام ،

بما اننا كنا ادعينا عليكما بجرم الضرب والتعطيل والشتم والاهانة
وعرقلة الطقوس الدينية .

وبما انه بعد مرور هذه الفترة الطويلة على الادعاء تبين لنا ان
ما نسبناه اليكما لم يصدر عنكما بالنظر لوجود عدة اشخاص عند وقوع
الحادث .

لذلك

جئنا نسقط حقنا الشخصي عنكما بهذه القضية

So ميشال يوسف ابو جودة — شكر الله يوسف ابو جودة — خليل يوسف عواد .
when all is said and done, all is forgiven, and back to the old spirit.

مبدون في ١٧/٤/٩٨
للحكم في ٢٣/٣/٩٨

محامي محكمة استئناف جزائري لبنان المحترمة
استقام مع طلب فتح محاكمة

من المدعى: سامي ابجوده
نارس ابجوده
بطرس ابجوده
هنري ابجوده

ضد: شكر الله ابجوده // نهرض ابجوده // نسيب ابجوده // المير ابجوده
ميشال ابجوده // حنا ابجوده // عبد الله ابجوده // خليل عواد

لما كان المدعون قد ادعوا على المدعى عليهم
ولا كانه الزبائن قد تصالحوا فيما بينهم
ولا كان المدعون قد حصلتهم كامل حقوقهم
وبما انهم يتقنون حقهم الشخصي عن المدعى عليهم

لذلك

يطلب المدعون الطاء التزل بفتح المحاكمة وتزويج استقامهم عن
المدعى عليهم بكامل حقوقهم الشخصية .

في ابو جودة: حارس ابو جودة - لبرس ابو جودة - هنري ابو جودة
كلنا
الحق

VILLAGE SCENES

Old Time, in our Idyllic Village, before the World and We changed. Green fields, majestic Pines, Mountain views covered with snow, cows in the field or lapping at stone troughs, Pita bread baking on open Sajjs (Woks), Grandma tending the Anise tree near the door, Monsignor Butros feeding his birds, Uncle Abdo walking the village road dispensing sweets to the children and telling magical stories of Sultans and Wazirs, school next to the Churchyard. Family everywhere you looked, and hope for the future.



Maska

The very rare July rain I witnessed on a summer visit. After a very hot day, the next morning awoke with a torrential downpour very unusual for that time (as is any rain in the Summer). The flood fed the parched earth, and the resulting steam started rising slowly from the valley below, and you could see the fog and clouds forming in the valley, rising slowly to the mountain top. An Incredible sight.



Sannine Mountain



The Mountain view



Maska circa 1950; Maska & Ghabeh in Snow below



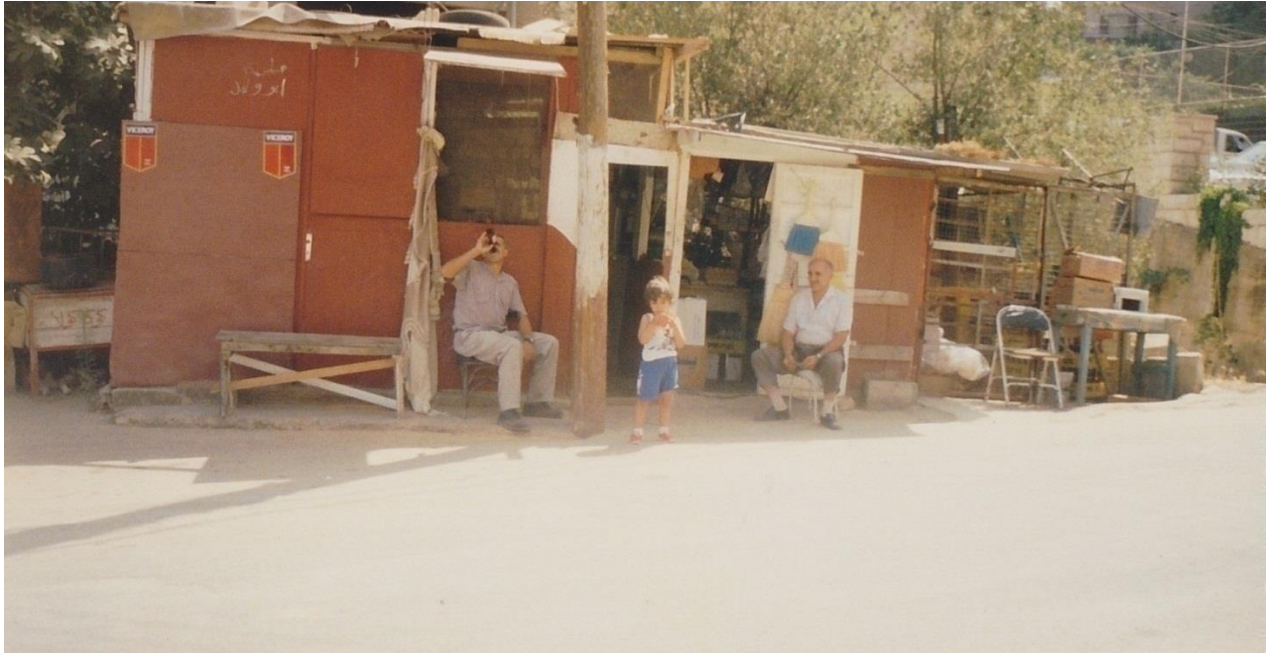


Maska Entrance – Malaab, Beit Mikhail, Adib's, Badih's & Munir's Bldgs, Mehfar

Going down the valley to the Je'emani River, part of the Beirut River. Mostly Dry in the summer, the trip is arduous, made more for goats than people (and we occasionally learnt that lesson when stuck on steep ledges). On the way is the Fire-Pit used by the village to make Coal in the old days ("Atoun"), near the "Baidar" (field). The areas there are the butt of jokes, like Har Badr, Shawi, for their remoteness and "uselessness", but if you own land there, it now goes for \$90/meter, so you would be laughing all the way to the Bank.

Oyoun, the neighboring village, bastion of the Abu-Diwan family, closely allied to the Aboujaoudes, joining them in their diaspora in Lebanon (Falougha) and the US (NJ). Our Apartment there now overlooks the church and a beautiful view of the valley and Mount Kneisset and Sannine, and the village of Qartada (Carthage... "New Town"- an obvious misnomer today). Our province of Metn recalls the "Metanni" folks of Hittite times.

“Dekkan” (store) of Abou Amin, a shack at the intersection in Maska, where old Abou Amin served the basics. Before him, Mansour had the shack, sitting disabled in his chair and entertaining the boys hanging around. The shack has been gone for 30 years, but we still give directions “near Abou Amin”.



Dekkan Abou Amin (Mansour's of old); Geryes in front

Village antics of boyhood, entertaining in an age with no TV, radio, video games or cellphones, raiding (Ghazwi) the fruit trees of neighboring orchards, and skinny dipping in the village reservoir. Old stories about family conflicts, a balcony dispute generating letters to the President ☺, and close friendships that would last a lifetime.

Remembering Edmond & Abu Edmond; Edmond the village taxi, despite his handicap.

Camping in “Dahra”, the little Hill on top of Kherbe (where Shukrallah Youssef Hanna’s house and Emile Youssef Hanna’s house now is) a childhood right of passage. Ansara (Monday after Easter) playing on swings in Dahra also a common custom.

The Pig farm at the bottom of the village, a source of income to some, a source of foul smells when the wind sweeps up the valley, always at the most inopportune times.

Beit Tanios, the old ruin of a “house” (a room actually attached to Grandpa Butros’s house), a reminder of how memories linger in the village of those long gone.



Brummana View

Coyotes howling in the valley forest below; Elders tell of wolves, now possibly extinct. Lebanon historically had much larger wild animals, with Lions reported as recently as 50 years ago, and archeologists unearthing Mammoth and Saber-tooth tiger remains.

The “Chehhara”, midway between Maska and Ghabeh, where we have a Mary statue in a roadside shrine. The Chehhara overlooks a great forest all the way down to the valley below, passing by my wife’s parents’ house along the way.



Coyotes, in case you thought we were kidding 😊; Shukri's son (of course 😊)

Snakes abound in the hot season, hiding in the grass waiting for unsuspecting sheep or people. We lost a few sheep to them, and a horse in Harf. I remember seeing two entwined snakes rolling down the stairs by Henry's house to the Haqlet below. In the 70's, the kids ganged up to burn out a snake in the "Dowwara" near al-ma'a3sara", the snake jumping out of the burning stack, aiming at me directly – at the time my knee swollen and damaged from a fall. Riad Elias Naoum, fast with his revolver, shot the snake in mid-air.



The Phoenician tomb in our village, which my grandfather owned the land rights to; when my Father later sold it to the nearby landowner, they promptly destroyed it to use the stones. Such is man in his ignorance, a treasure waiting for 2 thousand years, wiped in an instance of shame.

Camping in village scout teams at Al-Dahra (“The Back”) hill, making fire and friendships, with antics and jokes to last a lifetime.



Kherbet seen from Sayydet el Karm







Maska el Tahta, Mala'3ab at bottom



Beit Adib, Semaan & Charbel Toufic left; Beit Farid right





Former “Weekend” ☺





Atoun (firepit for making coal)



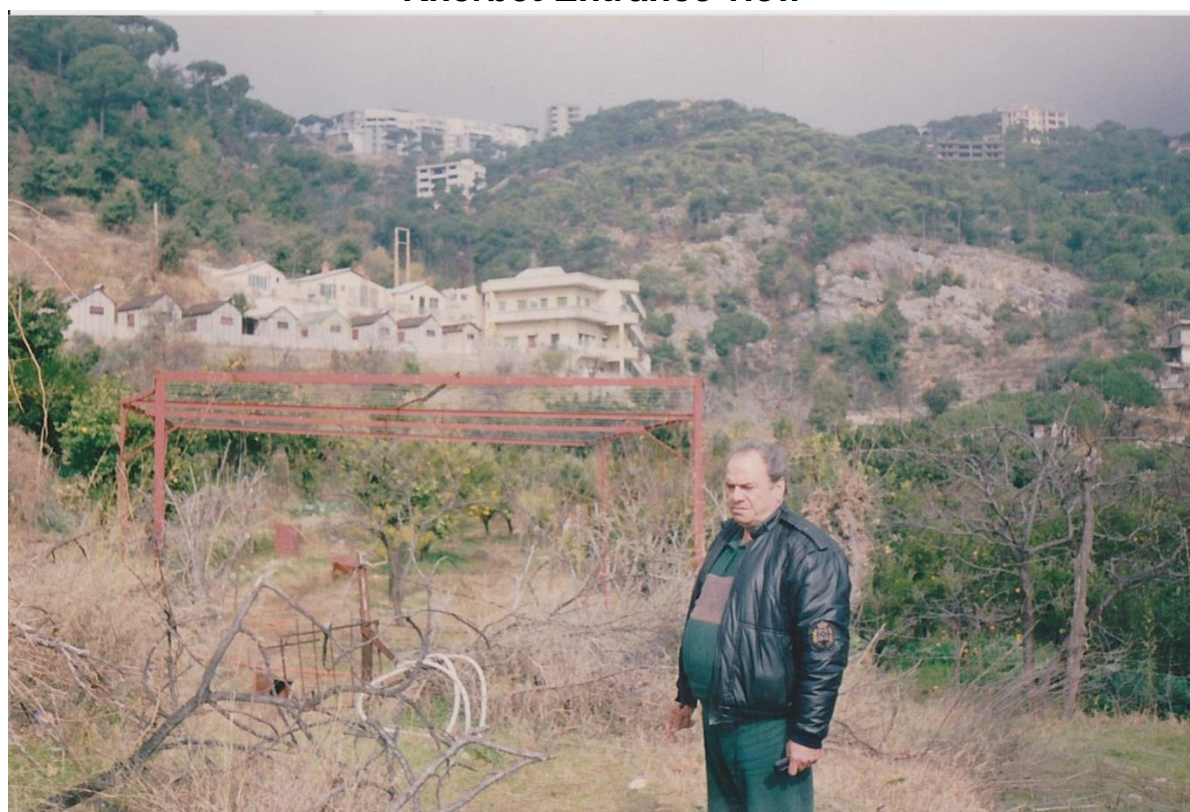
Je3maani River, Roy attempting the steep way down







Kherbet Entrance view



Weekened View

Maska and Ghabeh are small villages. You won't see them on a world map, or even on a map of Lebanon, unless it is a wall size map.

But in the minds of their inhabitants, they are a large world, with its own remote areas and mysterious places.

There are the "far away" Har Badr, Hedaidieh, Sheer el Kesara, Haroun, Kaab el Ghabeh, el Shawieh, and the generic "el Hersh" – the forest.

An old timer joke: when one of the "moderns" brags about visiting London or Paris, the old timer counters whether he has visited Har Badr or Shawieh like he did 😊. When a modern says "How are you" to an old timer, he is likely to hear "Tehawwar 3a shir el Ksara", a play on "Tehawwar" (fell down) on the Shir (cliff).

When asking directions in Maska or Ghabeh, you will not get a street name or number – they don't exist. You will get instead known "area" names, like el Atoon (the kiln near the court at the bottom of the village), el dahra (the hill on top of Kherbet), el sahleh (the flat hills above the road to Oyoun), el karm (the old vineyards above the 3ain), el behsaisa (the pebbly slope next to Karm), el 3ain (the main spring), coming in two varieties - el tahta (the lower) and el fawqa (the upper- or main one); haqlet el snawbra (Pine field, next to el 3ain), el mehfar (the quarry at the entrance to Maska); el harf (the woods facing the church of Maska); el saqieh (the stream, near the church, really a drain area); el bdar (the fields near Asaad's home); el chehhara (Mary's statue between Ghabeh and Maska); el ressif & el zaroub (two narrow streets in Ghabeh); sahet el keniset (Church Yard); kaab el Wadi (the valley between Maska and Kherbet); khandaq el sukt (the small gorge near el Karm).

Or you will get places like Nabe'et Sarkis (the well in Harf); moderns will use Malaab instead of atoon, since they have played volleyball but never made their own coal; Malaab Paul at the entrance of Maska; Mafrag el oyoun (Oyoun intersection) at Maska entrance; Nazlet el kherbet (Kherbet down-road); Beit flan (house of "somebody") or Near beit flan if you know someone already; Tareeq el ain (Spring road – an overgrown walking path near el 3ain); Tareeq el karm (pathway going above el Karm to brummana- more of a goat path); Tareeq Francois (Francois's road, at the bottom of Maska, named after Francois's "project" land); Tareeq kaab el ghabeh (road to the bottom of Ghabeh to the fields and spring there); el Razzini

(the spring and small pond below Haqlet el Snowbra); Berket Saseen (Saseen's pool); el Jeemani (the river leading to Nahr Beirut); Mancharet Akl (Akl's woodshop); the famous Weekend (a place of disrepute, used to be rented by the hour by frolicking teenagers, now a dump hosting many Syrian workers); el Maasara (the stone mill near Haqlet el Snowbra).

Or it could be "Dekkan Makhoul" (Makhoul's shop near Chehhara); Mhattet Maroun (Maroun's gas station near our house, even though Maroun sold it many years ago). Modern signposts include Dekkan Mikhail (Mikhail's shops, now run by his daughters, near the entrance to Maska), or Garage Elie near el 3ain.

Those "remote" areas of the village are, strangely enough, getting more remote, as the new generation shies away from the forest terk for more modern conveniences in fancy Brummana or Beirut. But some of them are still adventurous enough to go down to the River, following those risky goat paths and sheer cliffs. In some cases, all it takes is a small asphalt road to make an area a modern enclave, as has happened in the lower section of GhabeH.

These two twin villages, an area of no more than 12 square kilometers, are a world of its own. It has an ancient history, and thousands of tales to tell, big and small.

Its people had traveled through rough times before settling it. They lived through some tough times working the land, fending off invaders and enemies, and turning the stony hills to fertile terraces and fields. The names of the places remember their work. We may no longer know Badr, Sarkis or Sasseen, but we remember their fields and waterholes still.

And now they move again, many in foreign lands and continents, to tell its story. No matter how far they go, they still long for that little hometown. No water they drink tastes like the water of el 3ain, their native spring. No fruit they buy at the supermarket tastes like the oranges of Haqlet el Snowbra, or the pines of el Harf.

This book is an attempt to capture some of this scenery, for those of us far away, so they can continue to remember, and instill the same love of land in their children, who may not have seen this part of God's Paradise.

MASKA CHURCH SQUARE



The Church has recently acquired a Roof (Qarmid) thanks to Pierre Michel's generosity. It hosts a reception hall where weddings and Funerals occur, a "Sacresteia" to the side of the church, and a renovated Priest's House (previously the Village School). Abouna Najeeb, however, preferred to live in the solitude of the forest in his small hut. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the Earth.











Let it Snow





Church view from Mounir's Bldg





EL JARAS (CHURCH BELL)



Dad still has it... Tony Albert on right, Fadlo on left



So do I

The Church Bell, tolling 4 rhythm (muraba'a – tin-ne3-now-now we say ☺) in feast (a boyhood challenge), three single beats in sorrow or danger (Hozn), guarding the Church that protected the village in 1860 with its foot thick door still preserved with marks of Axe hits from the heathen horde.





Richo Ringing the Jaras



The Jaras Ringing Roger ☺

The Maska Bells were made in Beit Shabab, long famous for their quality workmanship. The people of Maska contributed 70 Gold Ottoman coins to be smelted into the Bell.





MADRASSET (VILLAGE SCHOOL)

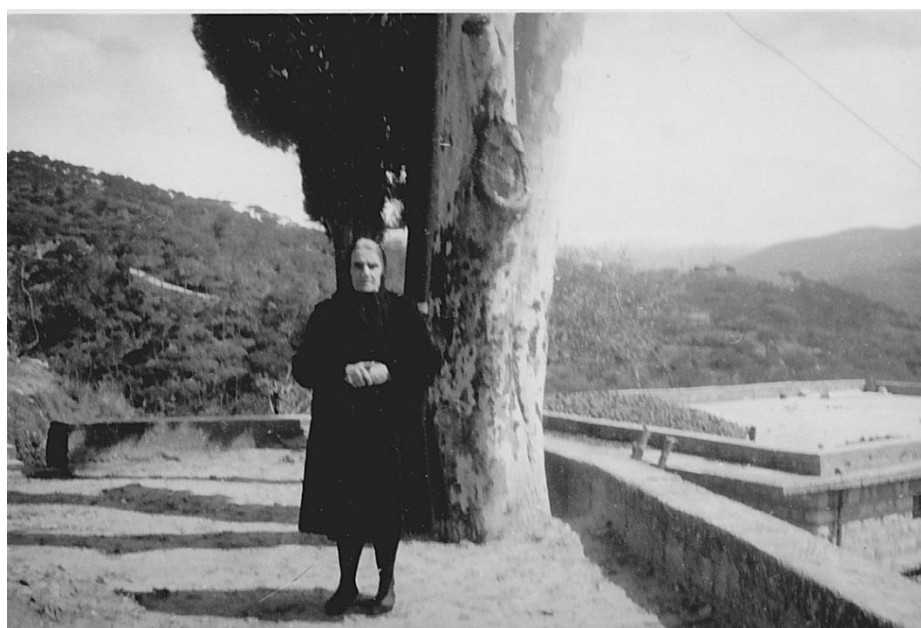
Many of our parents studied “Under the Sindiani (Oak Tree)”, schools being rare, and the village preacher usually teaching anywhere he can. (Our Church had an 8 foot diameter Sindiani till recently). Uncle Hafiz likes to tell people who ask him what degrees he has: I have the T. Tah Degree- initials in Lebanese for “Kiss my A...” Degree ☺. The school my brother Elie and we also went to for a while had one room borrowed from the Church, and one teacher (Estaz Elias for a while), trying his best to organize the students into multiple joint classes, with little material. In the Summer, Uncle Elia used it to give us wrestling classes with his Kids, having been an amateur wrestler in his youth in Costa Rica.





Old School House – Abouna Najib & Tarria in front

The house is now turned into the priest's house, but Abouna Najib would not live there, preferring the woods and solitude.



The Old Oak Tree (Sindiani) (now felled) – Grandma Adele

SAYDET EL KARM (LADY OF THE VINES)





“Abouna Najib” in Lady of the Vine; Melia sitting

“Lady of the Vineyard” statue built on Sandra’s land; “Saydet El Karm”, with a majestic view of Kneisse Mountain. “Sandoura Addoura” to me.



Sandoura Addoura



AL AIN

The Village Source, one of many springs giving Maska its name (the watering place). Its water is what made us strong, or so legend goes. Al-Ain (a Phoenician name for source, well represented around their stations in the Mediterranean) preserves the inscriptions of its construction in the 19th Century. The Mizrab name recalls ancient Eastern ties (Mizr: Phoenician “tight”; AB- Persian/Hindi “waters”, as in Punjab (5 waters/ivers)).





Al Mehqan



Al Ain

THE VIEWS OF HAQLET EL SNOWBRA







Jneinat (Joseph El Tarshishi, Sami Fadlallah)



The old mill (Ma'asara), now attached to our Orchard.



Picnic in Haqlet el Snowbra, Samir (Chafica), Mom, Dad, Emile, Emile



Joe Sami in the Orchard Headquarters ☺

Working the field in the family orchard, Tracking the water from the village spring with its stone cistern-pool, past the row of “Zinzalakht” shade trees, to the collimated tracks where the fruit trees and vegetables awaited it anxiously, expecting their turn in the 12 hour/8 day cycles (Eddan) shared between the landowners.



Rolla, Siham, Linda in Haqlet Snowbra

Our orchard, lovingly tended by my Father, with its small house and yard, surrounded by orange groves and a miscellany of fruits, including a lemon tree that carries watermelon sized lemons, big enough to break its branches. Many a memory remains there, including the rose bushes lovingly planted by my Mother, now watching them from above.





Siham, Minerva, Linda



Sami Fadlallah & his Vines



Eva Salim in her garden



Picnics in the Orchard: Sandra & Eva; gang below





Beit Edmond, far left; Asaad Ghawi below







Barbecue Time with Mira and Sami; Marjouha with Christine & Sandra below





Harf (Literally: Letter; Aramaic: Woods)



view of Maska from Harf





Nazlet el Harf





H7ersh el Harf





Harf Zaman - 1949

FADLALLAH IBRAHIM'S HOUSE - GRANDFATHER AND GRANDSON



At the heart of the village; Beit Ghosn, Beit el Khoury, and Beit Biu-Nader, surround the church



Beit Farid

Beit Tewfik



MALA'AB (COURT)

The Volley Ball Court (Mala'ab) the informal Village club, where I was introduced by Kamal as “The Atom Maker” on my return, and where the announcer Anis often declared: “score is 5-5, the result is Nothing!” Occasional fights between the village team and visitors, with a nasty one including a knife wound to Maroun, and my mother-in-law Laurice improvising a tree branch as a lance to quell the riot 😊.

Volley ball is the village game, and the Nadi sponsored many a game and ateam, playing on a court donated by Uncle Bishara Sassine. The Maska team shone through many tournaments, playing in the area and around Lebanon, with Maska following in tow, as the team won many a championship. Buses would take the villagers behind the team to cheer them on, with the Bus ride a big part of the fun, Derbakke, Music, Dancing and all. Our champion players of old were Abdallah Romanos, Suhail, Marcel Romanos, Roland Emile, and many others.

The Tennis court, belonging to Paul Habib, entertained many players and summer vacationers in the area, and occasionally hosted festivals and Music concerts. Issam Fouad was a long-time coach, as is George Yaacoub and Gabi Elias Qozhaya now.



Mala'ab Paul



Mala'ab (Caroline, Sandra)

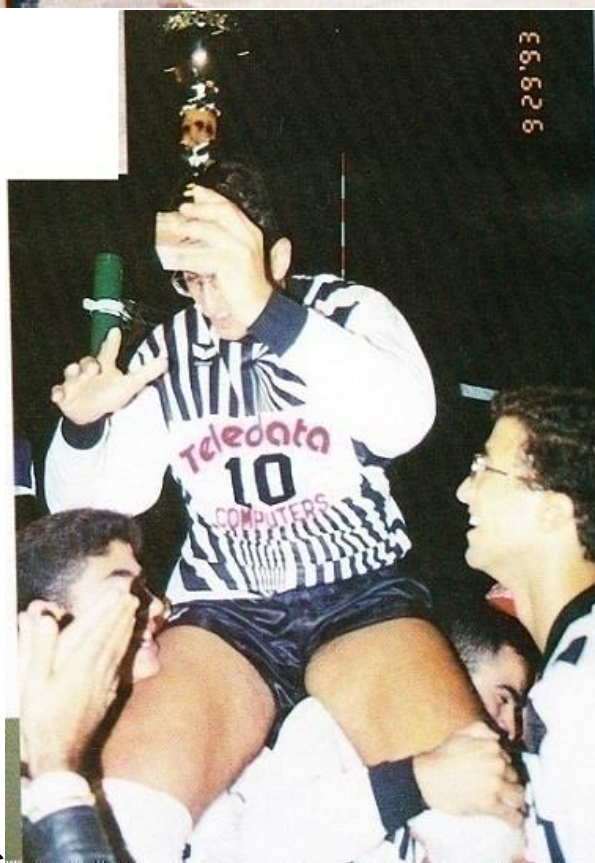




El Mala'ab



Tawi'iyat wal Intilaq Mala'ab



Old Times

Edward our Champion

HAYY EL TAHTA (LOWER MASKA)



Nazlet el Daraj (Beit Eid, Nassib, Albert, Fares); Beit Ayyoub, Qasr Abdallah below



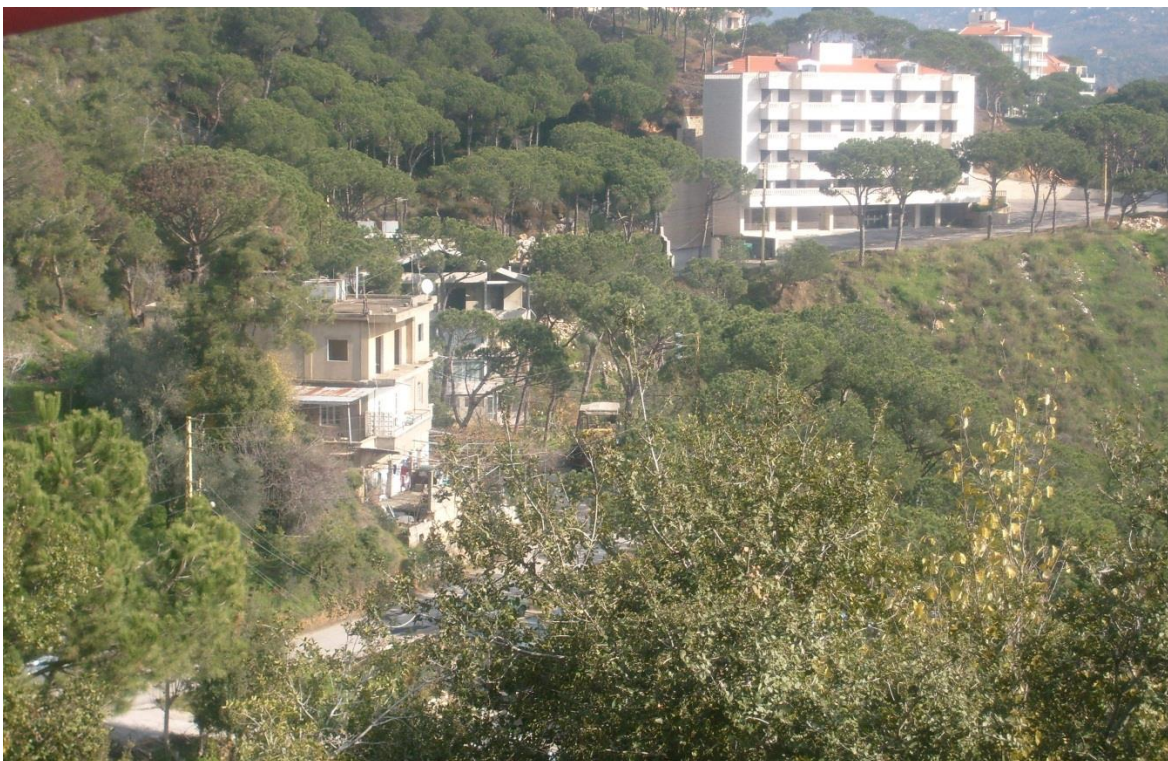






Lady of the Vine on the left;

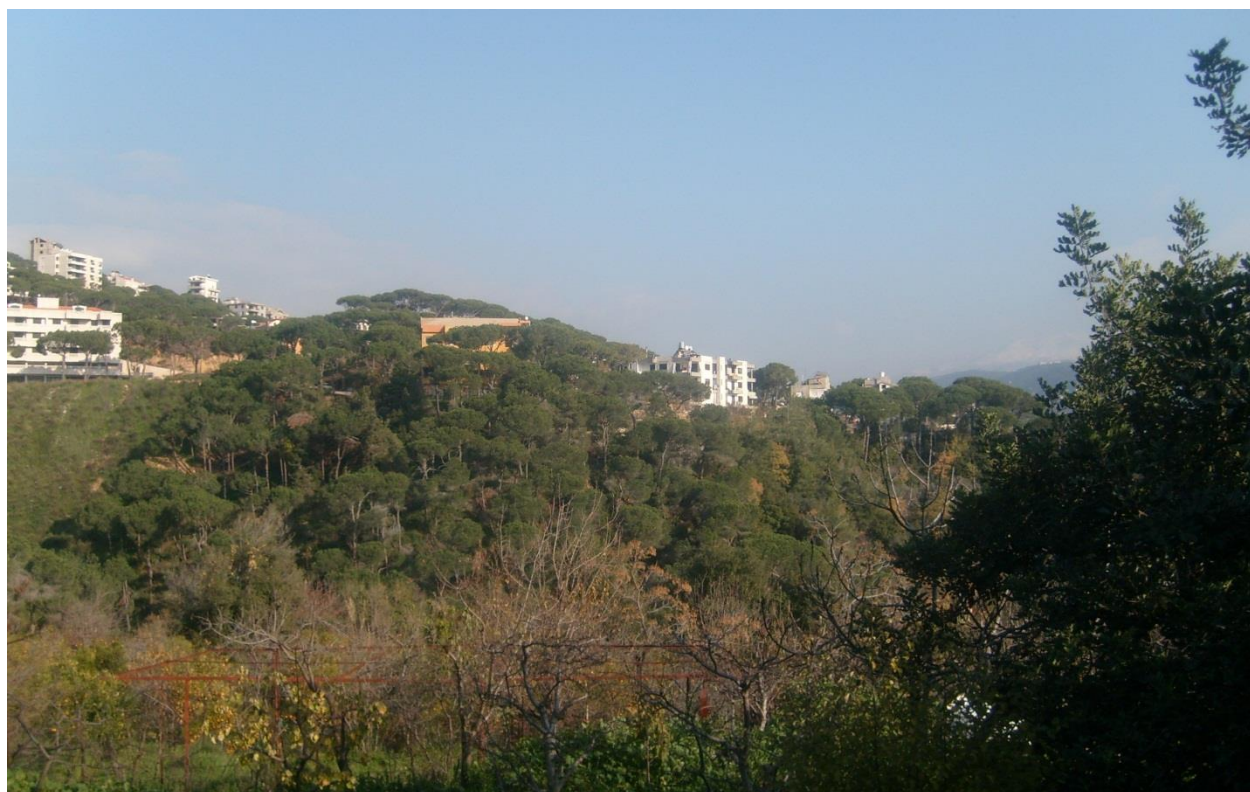
Mary Shrine atop the 3a'in



Beit Mazloun; Top of Kherbet



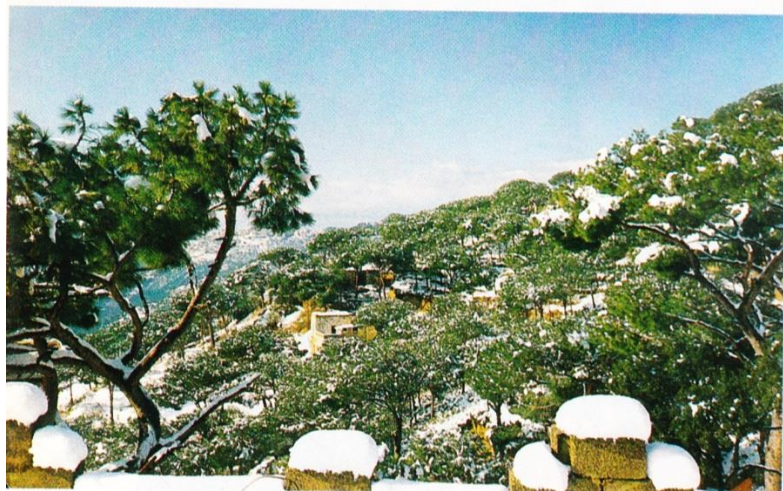
KHERBET





MASKA IN SNOW

المسقى



تكتسي

الابيض



MAR TAKLA



St Taqla Church, built in 1695







ولدت اولى الشهيدات في ايقونية مدينة بالقرب من انطاكيا ، من والدين وثنيين ، وقد توفي ابوها قبل تنصرها . كان علم تقلا نادرا مقرونا بجمال باهر وقد خطبها رجل شريف الاصل . لكن قد خرج القديس بولس من انطاكيا الى مدينة ايقونيا حيث بشر بالانجيل المقدس ، اشتهت ان تراه وتسمع تعليمه . فلما رآها عرف في الحال ان الله اختارها لتقديس اسمه ، فعلمها باهتمام زمنا طويلا ، حتى آمنت تقلا ايماننا متينا ونذرت للمسيح بتوليبتها . ولما بلغها نبأ سجن الرسول مرشدها باعت حلاها الثمينة لاعانته في ضيقه . ولما اخذ خطيبها ووالدتها مع الاقارب يضيقون عليها لجأت الى القديس بولس عليها تكون في مأمن ، غير ان خطيبها وشى بها مع امها الى الحاكم طالبين منه ان يلزمها على الزواج وترك الديانة المسيحية . فأمرها هذا الأخير بان تذهب بصحبتهما الى هيكل الآلهة لتقدم ذبيحة للاوثان . ولما ابت امر الحاكم باضرام النار امامها عليها تعود عن عزمها ، فاستغاثت باسم يسوع داخلة وسط اللهيب من تلقاء نفسها فلم تمسها النار باذى بل هطل مطر غزير فجأة بالرغم من صفاء السماء بعدها تخلص عنها خطيبها وتركها الحاكم فاقامت فترة من الزمن في بيت احد المسيحيين تمارس رياضات العبادة شاكرة الله ومستعدة للاستشهاد .

وفي تلك الاثناء جاء الى المدينة حاكم جديد يحقد على المسيحيين وعلى اثر الوشي بها اليه استدعت للمثول امامه فسألها : هل انت مسيحية ؟ اجابته نعم بحرية مقدسة امام اعيان الوثنيين واليهود . فأمر بان تقدم الى الوحوش التي ربضت عند قدميها مستأنسة . لكن الحاكم لم يكتف بل امر بتعليقها من رجليها الى ذنبي ثورين بريين ، الا انها لم يتحركا رغم وخز الجنود لهما بمناخر متقدة . فذهل الحاكم وامام دهشة الجماهير سألها بلطف : " من انت ايتها الفتاة الغريبة " فأجابته : " انا تقلا أمة يسوع المسيح ابن الله الحي " . عندئذ طلب لوحا وكتب عليه : " ان تقلا التي تلقب بأمة يسوع الذي يدعى الها هي طليقة حرة " .

بعد ذلك حاولت البتول عبثا اقناع ذويها باعتناق الدين المسيحي ، ثم اعتزلت مدة للصوم والتشف والصلاة . وعقب زيارتها للارض المقدسة ، استقرت القديسة في مدينة سلوقيا حيث صرفت ما تبقى من حياتها في تبشير الانجيل . فأمن على يدها عدد كبير من المؤمنين حتى لقبها احد الابرء "برسول سلوقيا " . مما ادى الى استشهادها على ايدي الوثنيين . ودفن جثمانها الطاهر بحيطه واکرام في ضواحي المدينة المذكورة . كما اصبح قبرها محجة للناصارى وخاصة للقديسين منهم وآباء الكنيسة وعلمائها .

لما ر تقلا معابد كثيرة في فرنسا وايطاليا وروما وفي الارجنتين يحتفل بعيدها رسميا لمساهمتها في تحرير البلاد . والجدير ذكره ان لبنان هو من اكثر بلدان العالم تعبدا لها اذ يبلغ عدد معابدها فيه اثني واربعين معبدا ، وفق ما ورد في كتاب "على طريق القديسين في لبنان " لفكتور صوما ، الجزء الثاني المطبوع في بيروت في كانون الاول ١٩٩٤ .



The Old Church Door that protected a Village in 1860



رعية مار تقلا - المسقى

النشاطات:

بعد أن أعلن الخوري ناصر الجميل، خادم الرعية، رغبته بتأسيس مجلس رعي لمؤازرته في العمل الرسولي والراعي. تم أخيرًا بشفاعة العذراء مريم والقديسة تقلا، وبإلهام من الروح القدس، انتخاب أعضاء هذا المجلس من بعد خبرة سنة من الممارسة المنتظمة، بتاريخ ٨ ايلول ٢٠٠٨ وهم على التوالي:



- أمين عام: رولان اميل بوجوده - لجنة مجمعية
- أمين سر: ماري كورين زوجة ناهي بوجوده - لجنة الأبرشية
- المسؤولون عن: رولا زوجة جوزف سامي بوجوده - عائلة مار تقلا
- العمل الرسولي: وكريستين مارون غاوي - فرسان العذراء
- العمل الاجتماعي: حفيظة زوجة هنري ابو جوده - اخوية الحبل بها بلا دنس
- الشؤون الطقسية: اماليا انيس بوجوده وداني جوزف بوجوده - الجوقة
- شؤون العائلة والشبيبة: وليد جريس بوجوده - نادي التوعية والانطلاق
- الاحصاءات والتوثيق: فاديا زوجة رولان بوجوده

بسهر خادم الرعية الخوري ناصر الجميل ورئيسة الأخوية السيدة حفيظة بوجوده على "عائلة مار تقلا" منذ أكثر من سنة، وخدمة الخوري نجيب بوجوده، ومحبة جميع أعضاء الأخوية، احتفلنا في عيد الحبل بها بلا دنس في ٧ كانون الأول ٢٠٠٨ بوعده ثمانية سيدات شابات كن اختبرن عيش الحياة الأخوية في الجماعة باندفاع ومواظبة على الصلاة وأعمال المحبة. فشاركنا الأخوية بحضورها بفاعلية في الرعية من خلال عيش الشهادة المسيحية بين أعضائها ومع الآخرين.



وقد تم في المناسبة تجديد وعد كافة سيدات الأخوية بحضور رئيسة اللجنة الإقليمية السيدة لورنس زيدان، وأمينه سرها السيدة هدى شاهين والسيدة جوزفين الأسمر.

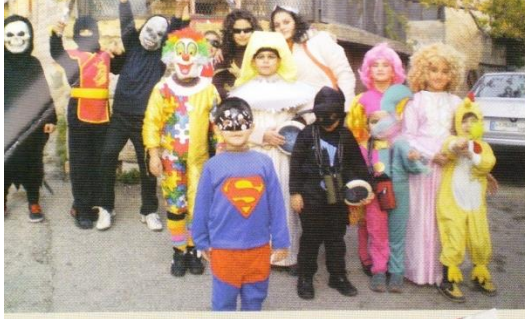


بعد الودع، تقبلت السيدات الواعدات الهدايا وتهاني الحاضرين الذين شاركوا الأخوية قالب كاتو عملاق.



بحضور ومشاركة الرئيسات السابقات السيدات اميلي بوجوده، سهام بوجوده وعفيفة بوجوده. وقد غابت السيدة جورجيت بوجوده بسبب السفر ولكنها كانت حاضرة بفكرنا جميعاً.

احتفلنا بعيد الاستقلال (٢٠٠٨/١١/٢٢) على طريقة الفرسان. وقد استغنم الخوري ناصر الجميل الفرصة لكي يشرح للصغار "حياة مار بولس" على طريقتهم: وبالنسبة قمنا بدعوة فرسان برمانا الذين شاركوا بفاعلية وحضور ذكي ومحبيب.

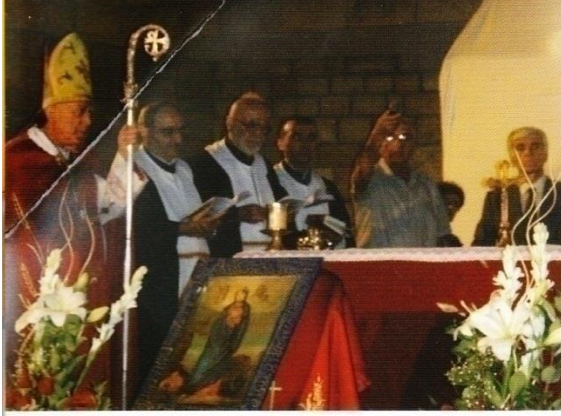


- كان لعيد القديسة بربارة رهجة محببة إذ اقمنا بعد القداس حفلة تنكرية شارك فيها الكبار والصغار بتاريخ ٢٠٠٨/١٢/٣.
- شاركت كل سيدات الأخوية تقريباً في اللقاء الذي أقامته رابطة الأخويات في مار الياس انطلياس تحت عنوان: "الأخويات تصلي من أجل الحوار المسيحي الإسلامي" بتاريخ ٢٠٠٨/١٢/٥.
- وفي فترة أعياد الميلاد ورأس السنة: قدم فرساننا المسرحية الميلادية "المجوس الرابع" بهمة المسؤولة الأنسة كريستين غاوي وبمساعدة السيدة يولا بوسمرا النشيطة الواعدة بتاريخ ٢٠٠٨/١٢/٢٧.
- ومن المحطات التي أصبحت ثابتة في رعبتنا. غذاء المسنين من أبناء الرعية وبناتها. بحضور محبيهم. أولادهم وأحفادهم. والجوقة التي أحيت هذا اللقاء. قدم الخوري ناصر الجميل الذبيحة الإلهية في صالون الكنيسة تلاها لقمة محبة وحفلة ترفيهية قدم خلالها الأحفاد رقصة دبكة دربهم عليها السيد نبيل الشعار ثم وزع بابا نويل هدايا رمزية للجميع.

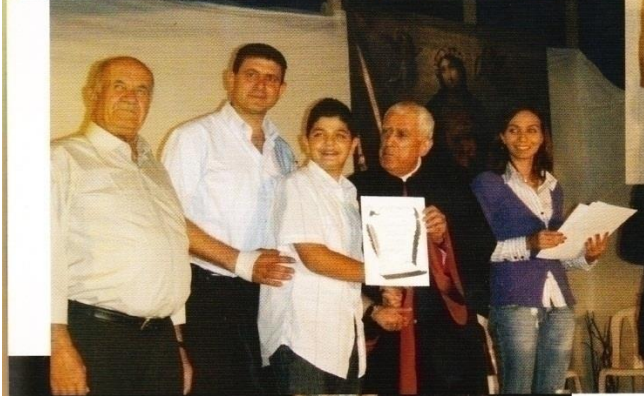
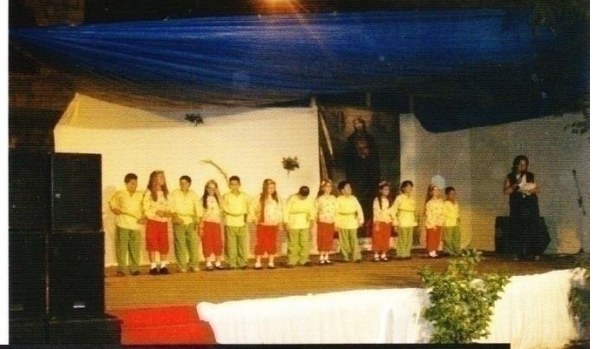


نشكر الرب كل حين لأنه يجمعنا ويجددنا ويعطينا بنعمته أن نحيا محبته ونشع نوره.





وغيرها وغيرها من المشاريع والمناسبات التي كان لنادي التوعية والانطلاق
المسقى الفضل في إجاحها. ولعل السبب الأبرز في نجاح النادي
واستمراره هو محبة إبنائه وغيبتهم على بقاء النادي.



يبقى هناك حلم كبير يحاول نادي التوعية والانطلاق المسقى
تحقيقه في القريب العاجل. لعلنا قد نطلعكم عليه في عدد لاحق
طالبين منكم ان تمنوا لنا تحقيقه بالرغم من الامكانيات البسيطة
المتوفرة حاليا.

رئيس النادي
شربل ابوجوده



Rev. Nasser Gemayel, a bishop of our own

Our St Taqla Church, center of our lives in youth, with Feasts, festivals, and “Ziyyahs” (Processions) for every occasion.

Going to “I3tiraf” (Confession) with the priest, scared to lie and scared to tell the truth. The private confessions are less common now – I guess there aren’t enough priests to cover our sins anymore ☺.

Praying in Aramaic in Church, (sometimes called Syriani, Karshuni, and sometimes Sansicriti recalling an ancient Hindi link), not always understanding the words, but the hymns memorized by all.

The Church was built in 1695, and is as old as Maska & the Aboujaoudes themselves. It is the linchpin of our daily life, the center of our faith, and many of our activities. Its priests are our religious as well as moral leaders. ST Taqla’s annual festival a pilgrimage for all Aboujaoudes and Maskawites dispersed around the world.



Patriarch el-Rahi Visit; 4 Bishops below (2 Aboujaoudes)





Praying in the Church



Church Tribune, Rolla Supervising ☺



“Rasayel” (Corinne Nahi)





Bringing the Community together



Khamees El-Ghesl (Thursday before Good Friday) above; “Salam” below





Church Hall Kitchen; Serving “Bakhour” below









Maska Akhawiyet



Akhawiyet (Sisterhood) (1970s): Abouna Najib, Zehre, Karime, Jeandarc, Therese Hanna, Colette, Therese Farid and Marie Therese. Top: Angel, Siham, Josephine Romanos, Samia Mikhail, Emm Elie (Bishara), Georgette Eid; Emm Nasib to the left. Georgette Hanna, Mona Ghawy, Blanche Semaan, Marcelle Nadim, Nada Semaan in middle row.



Three Bishops & Patriarch El-Rahi with el-Akhawiyet

The “Sisterhood” (Akhawiyet) ladies are pretty active, more recently traveling in groups all over the world.

The “Fersan” youth organization involves the young in Church activities as auxiliaries, with many activities of their own, including plays, shows, helping with St Taqla festival, and other charitable activities. Dani Joseph has produced a number of shows and plays for the young, who put up incredible performances for the village and visitors.







Fersan el Adra

Before we had the Church Hall, the viewing of the deceased used to be held at the person's home. The Ladies of the Akhawiyet Solidarity, led in the 70's by Georgette Eid (el Shakra) along with the twon ladies would always be present, praying for the deceased, while wearing their Akhawiyet "Badlet" and holding the Solidarity Banner.

In May, the "Shahr el Maryami" (St Mary's Month), daily prayers were held by the Akhawiyet ladies at a different house each night throughout the Holy Month. The prayer would always include a chanting of "Ya Omm Allah", sung then by Georgette with her beautiful voice.

The Akhawiyet was also of course a key player in every Ziyyah el Adra, leading the prayer and assisting the Priest, as the village toured the many "Adra" Mary road-side memorials scattered in every corner of the village.



Talae3h w Chabibet – Fersan active and helping in every occasion





٢- فرسان العذراء :

تأسست حركة "فرسان العذراء" في رعية المسقى سنة ١٩٧٨ بتشجيع سيادة المطران الياس فرح راعي الابرشية يومذاك وبمباركته . واخذت على عاتقها الاهتمام بها اخوية الحبل بلا دنس ونادي التوعية والانطلاق - المسقى . كما كانت الأنسة جيلبرت كميل ابوجودة برئاستها .

ثم توالى على الرئاسة : تيريز فريد ابوجودة , بلانش سمعان ابوجودة , ماري تيريز هنري ابوجودة , ميشلين هنري ابوجودة , جان دارك م خليل ابوجودة , باتريسيا نعوم ابوجودة يوسف , رضى بشارة سمعان , وتهتم حاليا بها باتريسيا ناهي ابوجودة وقد بلغ عدد المكرسين والمكرسات في رعية المسقى تحديدا في اخوية فرسان العذراء منذ تأسيسها حوالي السبعين عضوا .

٣- جماعة ايمان ونور :

هي "جماعة" لا جمعية . تأسست في فرنسا على يد جان فانبيه " ثم ما لبثت ان انتشرت في العالم . هدفها جمع الاخوة المجروحين في ذكائهم ضمن عائلة تحبهم , ترعاهم , تعلمهم وتعيش معهم اوقات مفيدة ومسلية . لكل اخ مرافق من الشبيبة يساعده وينمي بالتعاون مع ذويه . هذا وتساعد مؤسسة ال ARCHE على ايجاد فرص عمل في مجالات تناسب قدراته . تلتئم جماعة ايمان ونور مرة في الاسبوع وتقيم مخيمات سنوية وحجا الى سيدة لورد العجائية مرة كل اربع سنوات . اما في المسقى فتمة اخ واحد مجروح في ذكائه . ومن اعضاء جماعة ايمان ونور في المسقى سكانا ومقيمين سابقا وحاضرا : ميشلين هنري ابوجودة , ريتا البير ابوجودة , رضى بشارة سمعان , الهام ميشال ابوجودة , باتريسيا نعوم ابوجودة , مارلين منير ابوجودة , الهام ابوجودة حاموش , ميراي نمر حاموش , سهى انطوان ابوجودة , مهى انطوان ابوجودة , فاديا انطوان ابوجودة , مارلين كميل سمعان و راغدة بشارة سمعان .

١- اخوية الحبل بلا دنس :



يعود تأسيس اخوية الحبل بلا دنس في رعية المسقى الى سنة ١٩٥٢ وقد اسهم في تأسيسها الاخت ريموندا نصار من راهبات القليلين الاقدسين . تولت خدمة الرئاسة الأنسة جورجيت عيد ابوجودة مدة ثلاثين سنة متواصلة. ثم انتقلت رئاستها الى السيدة سهام اميل ابوجودة وحاليا تهتم بامور الرئاسة السيدة عفيفة نديم ابوجودة . في حين تتولى مهام الفريق الرسولي السيدة جورجيت سمعان ابوجودة . تجتمع الاخوية يوم الاربعاء لصلاة الفرض ولسائر نشاطاتها الروحية والاجتماعية , بما فيها المعرض السنوي الذي تنظمه بمناسبة حلول عيد شفيعا البلدة مار تقلا . وهو يتضمن اشغالا يدوية متنوعة يعود ريعها الى دعم صندوق الاخوية وتفعيل نشاطها الرعوي والانساني .





For all occasions



The Great Ladies of Maska Akhawiyet

ZEYYAH EL ADRA



Ziyyah el 3Adra





At every Corner a Mazar to Mary, “Shafi’3etna”





Yetmajjad Esma ☺



Joseph el Harf & Tony Sami leading Zeyyah El Adra, 1960's



Zeenet el Adra (before Joe's house was built; Tony Sami showing)





CHOIR



National Performances above; Choir break below



St Taqla Choir, Maska; Dani Joseph at the Keyboard



Maska Choir

The Maska Choir is very active, nephew Dani Joseph leading the performance, with Anis's kids Patricia and Amalia, Maya Joseph, Raymonda Fadlallah, Yolla Elie and others helping; their annual musical/play at St Taqla not to be missed. The Choir recently featured prominently in a Nousat competition on Television, getting to the finals.





Our Champions on TeleLumiere



Ziyyah el Adra – Hafiz Deeb, Joseph Sami, Raymond Nassib

FIRST COMMUNIONS



Brother Tony left, Gaby Semaan right; Abu Fares & “Estaz” Elias left



Joe, Pierre, Kamal Farid, 1960's



Saints ☺ Mimo and Alexandra, Fadlo Ducking (I would ☺)



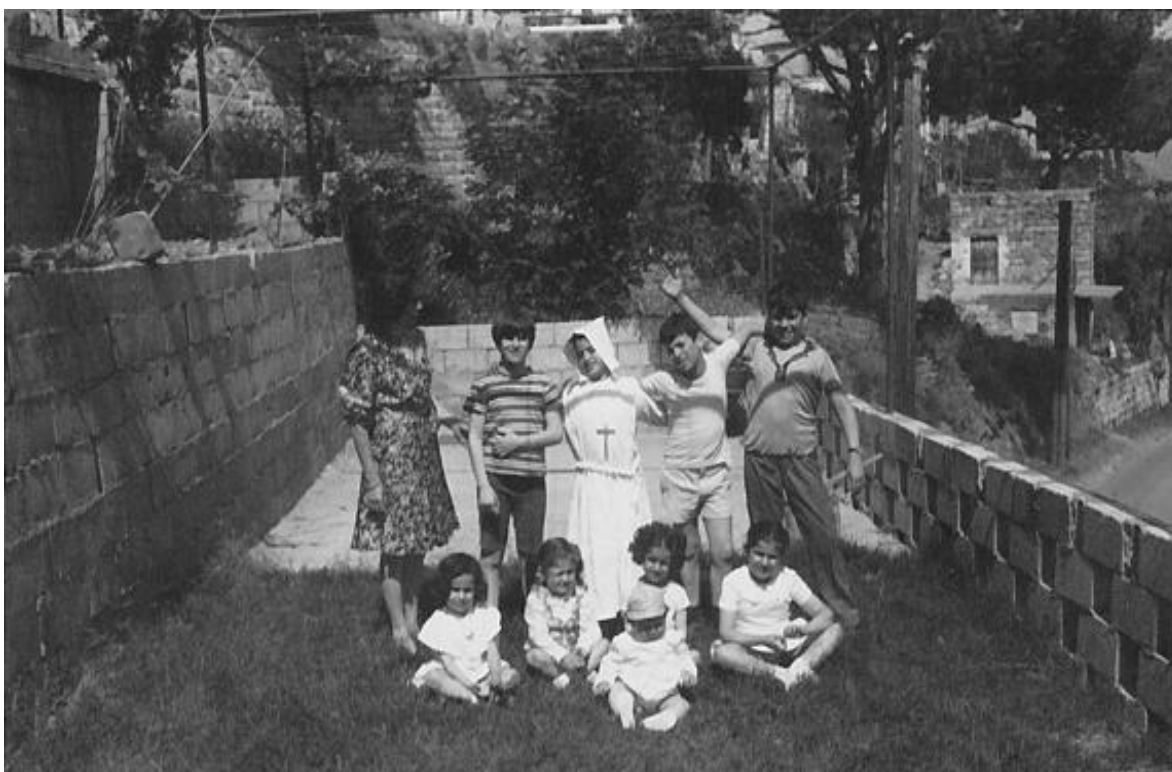
Elie I-Malik, Tony, Ghassan, and “Ma Soeur”, 1960’s



First Communion: Joseph el-Harf, Tony & Jean & Ghassan Israel, Samia Elias Naoum, Tony Sami, Elie I-Malik, Raymond Amin, Robert Bishara, Me, Salim Semaan, Elie, Joe; Top: Siham, Victor, Yvonne, Henry, Marinka, early 1960's



Raymond Amin in happier days



After-Party ☺: Elie center, Pierre and Joe left and right



Elie Communion (middle), Tony & Grandma Adele top right; Pierrot top left; Margo, Christina, May below; Halim left



First Communion in the 60's, Shukri, me, Jean & Tony Israel



First Communion in the 2010's; Toti center, Mimo & Maro presiding



Emilio & Ricardo

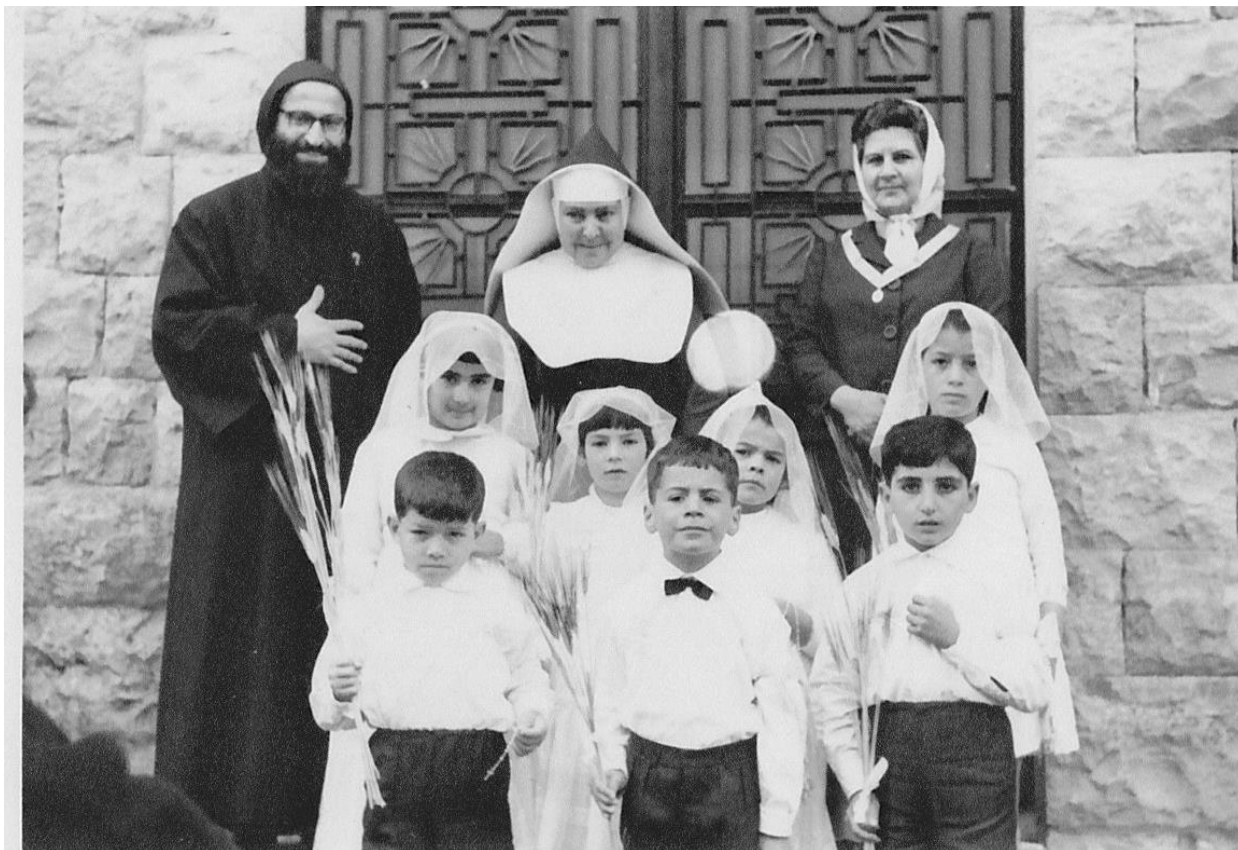


Putting Community in Communion









Ghassan, Tony, Elie I-Malek, Samia, Aida; Aunt Josephine Romanos







ربيع فيلور بطريرك
 دار بوسر جوزيف محول
 كميل شكرى ابو جوده
 شبل نديم عبدو
 اميل فيليب عبدو رستم
 روني طوني الياس نعوم
 ميلاد نديم سحان
 ميلاد طنوس رزق الله (جانيث يوسف مارون)
 ياسين الياس ابو صبر (العسكري في الحرة)
 شبل فيليب عبدو رستم
 داني عبدو الياس
 جاد نبيه رستم محول





Organized by el Nadi, Ayyam Rayess Antoun



صورة تذكارية لصغار النادي في ذكرى المناولة الاولى مع سيادة المطران والآباء
يوحنا صادر وفرنسيس واكيم, والاخ جورج عون ورئيسة الفرسان باتريسيا ابوجودة



Bishara & Jean, the quiet servants of God

BAPTISMS



Marc & Lara Charbel Baptism





Badih Lahoud (MP, Minister) with Joe and Pierre; Aunt Hoda (left) & Mom; 1959



Sami Elie's Christening; Sami Joseph Godfather; Father Maroun Asmar (NJ); 2008



My Baptism- 1955 – Note the low (anti-Druze ☺) Church Door; Laurice, Butros Sleiman to right,

GOOD FRIDAY (JEM3A'AT EL 3AZIMI)



Good Friday; Edward Sema'an, Fadlallah Henry helping



Good Friday (Jema'at I-Azimi); Joe's other cross ☺



Good Friday





Maska Good Friday; George, Butros, Tony, Elie Hanna helping













EASTER & SHA'ANINI (PALM SUNDAY)



Old Time Shaanini, 1960's; Uncle Antoine (RIP), Philippe



Dad, can I have a smaller Candle? ☺; with Olga & Yvonne



More big Candles ☺; Zahia, Olga, Siham, Dad, Henry & us (Salim, Tony, Joe)



Easter - Aunt Nadia's whole brood in Paris



Maamoul el Eid

CHRISTMAS



Our Christmas Donkey ☺



Manger



Christmas (Eid El Milad); Papa Noel “Mujawqal” ☺



Maska Santa's Christmas Car



Maska Christmas



Xmas in St Taqla





رعية مارت تقلا – المسقى

إحتفالات الميلاد والدنج 2013-2014

الاثنين 16 كانون الأول 2013 : الساعة 6 بدء تساعية الميلاد. تستمر كل ليلة حتى 23 ك 1.
الأربعاء 18 كانون الأول 2013 : الساعة 7 موضوع: كيف يديننا الله؟
الجمعة 20 كانون الأول 2013 : الساعة 4 بدء مخيم الفرسان والطلائع الميلادي.
الأحد 22 كانون الأول 2013 : أحد النسبة. القداش الساعة 10. إنتهاء مخيم الفرسان والطلائع
بعد الظهر. رياضة الكوبلات من الساعة 4 حتى الساعة 8.
الاثنين 23 كانون الأول 2013 : الساعة 7 سهرة تراتيل ميلادية.
الثلاثاء 24 كانون الأول 2013: الساعة 6 قداش عيد الميلاد.
الأربعاء 25 كانون الأول 2013: عيد الميلاد. الساعة 12 منتصف الليل قداش العيد.
عيد الميلاد. الساعة 10 صباحاً قداش العيد.
الخميس 26 كانون الأول 2013: تهنئة العذراء. القداش الساعة 6.
الجمعة 27 كانون الأول 2013: الساعة 6 قداش سبسيال يبدأ بمسيرة المجوس من الدكان.
الساعة 8 تبدأ دورة العاب تسلية وتستمر الى مساء الاحد.
السبت 28 كانون الأول 2013: غذاء المسنين إبتداء من الساعة 10.
الثلاثاء 31 كانون الثاني 2013: الساعة 6 قداش الشكر على سنة 2013.
الأربعاء 1 كانون الثاني 2014: رأس السنة، يوم السلام العالمي. قداش الساعة 6.
الساعة 7 ساعة صلاة.
الاثنين 6 كانون الثاني 2014: الساعة 12 منتصف الليل قداش العيد ورتبة تبريك المياه.
عيد الدنج. الساعة 10 صباحاً قداش العيد.
ولد المسيح ... هلوليا!

Full Christmas Season Festivities





Ghabeh at Xmas





St Taqla, By Vincenzo Lampodico, 1870



Festival Prayers, ArchBishop Roland Aboujaoude blessing



Church Square, full for a week of events



Old Troupe with
Teacher Akl Nohra



The annual St Taqla Festivals, nurtured and transformed by my brother Tony Sami for many years, and now shepherded by the Dynamic Charbel Semaan, bringing music, culture, old-time “village dinner” (el A3sha el Karawy) and a taste of the old times to the village square, where village folks and extended families gather to meet in the fast changing busy new world. Staying up late with the old gang, telling jokes and stories of yore. Some who left us at 2 am regretted it and came back to stay to greet the morning light- such is the attraction of family and love of kin.

St Taqla is our patron Saint, and the patron Saint of the Aboujaoudes who left Maska, with Churches in Bkennaya and Jal-El-Dib. Her pictures are in our homes in Lebanon, America, Australia, UAE, Europe & everywhere we’ve gone. “Ya Mar Taqla Riddi 3Anna” (St Taqla protect us) is our constant cry in hard times.



St Taqla Church, Maska



Eid Mar Taqla







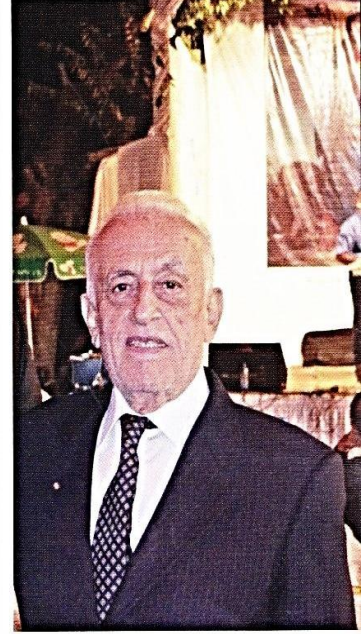
مهرجان عيد مار تقلا - المسقى



المطربة بريجيت ياغي

تحتفل رعية مار تقلا «المسقى» كل عام بعيد شفيعتها القديسة تقلا، ويستمر هذا الاحتفال أقله لمدة ثلاثة أيام، تحيي في خلاله لجان المجلس الرعوي بالاشتراك مع أبناء البلدة والجوار سهرات تراثية يتخللها الزجل والغناء والفولكلور اللبناني مع لعبة السيف والترس، الى جانب الصلوات الدينية والقداس الاحتفالي الذي يقيمه النائب البطريركي العام المطران رولان أبوجودة وكهنة الرعية...

جاءت عظمت هذا العام لترسيخ روحانية القديسة تقلا في قلوب أبناء الرعية وكافة زائريها...



مع زغلول الزجل اللبناني



نادي التوعية والانطلاق المسقى
مهرجانات مار تقلا المسقى يوم ٢٣/٩/٢٠١٣
قداس سيادة المطران رولان أبو جودة الساعة السابعة مساء
يليه مسرحية رائعة لفرسان المسقى من تأليف وإخراج داني جوزيف سامي أبو جودة
بعنوان ضوي يا هل قنديل
بليها سهرة فنية تحبها الفنانة سنتنا عواد والمطرب وسيم ضاهر



لعبة السيف والترس



نقيب الصحافة الأستاذ محمد البعلبكي
يحيط به المهندس شربل ابوجودة والسيد ميشال ابوجودة



أحدى اللجان الرعائية التنظيمية لمهرجان القديسة تقلا ٢٠١٢

الله



المطرب عبدو ياغي



إحتفالات بلدة المسقى

شارك أهالي بلدة المسقى والجوار كعادتهم في كل عام وبمناسبة عيد شفيعتهم "القديسة تقلا" نادي التوعية والانطلاق بمهرجاناته السنوية التي دامت ثلاثة أيام ٢٣ و٢٤ و٢٥ أيلول ٢٠١٠ مُتضمّنة :

- النشاط الروحيّ وهو تقليد مميّز سنويّ بهذه المناسبة، بمشاركة ابن العائلة المطران رولان أبو جودة ومباركته.
 - أما النشاطات الفنيّة والثقافيّة، فأحييتها شببيّة البلدة وأصدقاؤهم، وتخلّلها عروض تراثيّة راقصة ومسرحيّات لجميع الأعمار وغيرها من ألعاب تسلية وترفيه.
- واختتمت هذه المهرجانات بعشاء قروي من الأطباق اللبنانيّة التقليديّة إضافة إلى عدة مفاجآت أخرى.
- عقبال كل سنة!!



صورة القديسة تقلا

صورة القديسة تقلا

صورة القديسة تقلا: يقال إن صورة لمارت تقلا انتقلت مع أهل المسقى واستقرت في بلدة بقنايا إثر حوادث 1860. أما اللوحة الحالية فهي لوحة زيتية تحمل تاريخ سنة 1870 وموقعة بريشة الفنان الإيطالي "Vincenzo Lampodico" ذكر عليها عنوانه في روما "Via de Cesarini Roma".

تمثل هذه الصورة امرأة رومانية وثنية، أضاف إليها الفنان إكليلاً ورموزاً مسيحية. في هذا الإطار يؤكد الخوري يوحنا أبو جودة، الذي خدم رعية المسقى منذ سنة 1932، أن الرسام داود القرم حاول شراءها بمئة عثمالية دون جدوى.

الجرس

الجرس

قبة الجرس ما زالت على حالها، والجرس من صنع بيت نفاع في بيت شباب. أما رنة صوته التي تميزه عن سائر الأجراس، فالفضل فيها يعود إلى أن أهالي المسقى دفعوا سبعين ليرة عثمانية ذهبية صبّت في قالب الجرس.

كنيسة مارت تقلا

بناؤها

يعود تاريخ بناء الكنيسة، بحسب التقليد، إلى عام 1695، في الوقت الذي شُيّدت فيه كنيسة دير الحرف. يقول الخوري يوحنا أبو جودة إن كنيسة دير مار أشعيا الراهب، للآباء الأنطونيين، التي تجدد بناؤها حوالي سنة 1700 كانت نسخة طبق الأصل عن كنيسة المسقى، في مقاساتها وتوجيهها.

كنيسة مارت تقلا الصغيرة تتخطى جماليات الشكل إلى لطف الروح وجوهره، وهي ما تزال تشكل تراثاً جليلاً. فهي رغم التحويلات والتجديدات التي طرأت عليها منذ بنائها فإن تصميمها العام ما يزال يحتفظ بخصائصه الرئيسية التي قامت على أساسها: تم استخدام الحجارة الصفراء المقصوبة في بنائها وفي الزيادات.

كانت مربعة الشكل فيما مضى، وكان عرضها متر وما زال. الطول وحده هو الذي تغير:

○ من متر إلى متر حوالي سنة 1962 وتمت إضافة الشرفة المخصصة للخورس (tribune)، وقد تمّ هذا التوسيع بهمة وكلاء الوقف وعلى رأسهم السيد يوسف مارون أبوجودة

○ ومنمتر إلىمتر حوالي سنة 1998 بسعي لجنة الوقف المؤلفة من الخوري ناصر الجميل، السيد بشارة ساسين أبوجودة، المهندس شربل سمعان أبوجودة، السيد جان يوسف أبوجودة والآنسة يولا فارس أبوجودة، وبهمة مارت تقلا والأهالي والعائلة الجودية والأصحاب الذين لم يبخلوا بمساعداتهم، أخذت كنيستنا حلتها الجديدة وتم بناء صالونين لخدمة أبناء الرعية في أفراحهم وأتراحهم.



المذبح

ثلاثة مذابح، المذبح الكبير في الوسط تعلوه صورة القديسة تقلا ومذبحان جانبيين صغيران، في أعلى المذبح الكبير حمامة من حجر تشكل جزءاً لا يتجزأ منه وتذكرنا بالروح القدس الحاضر دوماً.

المدخل الأساسي والمدخل الجانبي كانا من الانخفاض بحيث كان على من يريد الدخول إلى الكنيسة أن يحني رأسه، وذلك شأنها شأن جميع الكنائس القديمة التي كانت تبنى بهذا الشكل منعاً لدخول الخيل.

○ الباب الجانبي ما زال موجوداً وهو كان على "صوص ونقطة"، مقاساته: طول وعرض أي بعرض الشباك الحالي. وكانت تزينه قنطرة رُسم عليها صليب على جحر نراه اليوم موضوعاً في حائط الكنيسة جهة المدخل الأساسي.

بِسْمِ الْآبِ وَالْإِبْنِ
وَالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ
الرُّوحِ أَحَدُ آمِينَ

St-Takla.org



كهنة ورهبان منحوا سر المعمودية في كنيسة مار تقلا - المسقى

من 1835 إلى 2004

قام الخوري ناصر الجميل ببحث في السجلات القديمة للكنيسة ودون أسماء الكهنة والرهبان الذين قاموا بالخدمة الكهنوتية في الرعية لغاية اليوم:

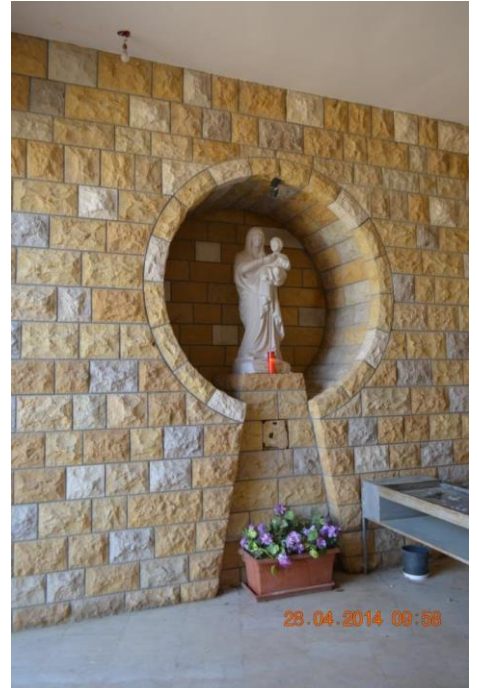
1. الخوري طانيوس (؟) من 1835 إلى 1863
2. القس يوحنا غزيري 1865
3. القس الياس جوده أنطونياني 1866-1867
4. الخوري يوسف المسقى 1867-1868
5. القس واكيم غزيري أنطونياني 1867-1870
6. القس بولس 1860
7. الخوري انطونيوس جوده 1870-1871
8. القس يوحنا غزيري أنطونياني 1865
9. القس بطرس بسلوقي 1866
10. القس برنردوس بحنسي أنطونياني 1887
11. القس جناديوس قرنة شهوان أنطونياني 1892-1895-1901-1907
12. الخوري جرجس المجبر 1896-1920-1924
13. القس سراييون 1924
14. القس انطونيوس صقر اللبناني 1924
15. القس نعمة الله شقير الأنطوني 1911
16. الأب شكرالله عون الأنطوني 1914
17. الأب برناردوس قرنة الحمراء الأنطوني 1914-1915
18. القس أنطون الإهدني الأنطوني 1918
19. القس أرسانيوس الملاح الأنطوني 1918
20. القس زكريا قرنة الحمرا 1920
21. القس يوسف الأرصوني الأنطوني 1921-1930-1931-1936-1937
22. القس سراييون 1921-1924

23. القس يوسف الحائك 1925
24. المونسنيور نعمة الله ابو جودة 1926
25. الخوري الياس ابو جودة 1929
26. القس شعيا الأرصوني الأنطوني 1930
27. القس يوسف نادر الأنطوني 1931
28. الخوري طوبيا الأشقر 1935-1936-1938-1950.
29. الخوري بطرس عطية 1939
30. الخوري سمعان راشد 1940
31. القس بولس ابي جودة الراهب اللبناني 1940-1951-1954
32. الخوري بطرس ابي جودة 1936-1938-1942-1944-
- 1951-1952-1956-1959-1967-1971-1978
33. الأب الياس الأشقر الأنطوني 1943
34. الخوري فرنسيس الناكوزي 1943
35. الخوري نعمة الله الأسمر 1944
36. الخوري يوحنا ابو جودة 1931-1932-1944-1951-1953-
- 1955-1965-1969-1978 ومن سنة 1979 إلى اليوم.
37. الخوري يوسف خير الله 1947-1948
38. الخوري شكرالله نصار 1950
39. الأب مارون حريقة الأنطوني 1967
40. الخوري الياس الخوري 1952
41. القس طانيوس عون الأنطوني 1952-1954-1970
42. الأب نعمة الله سعادة الأنطوني 1953
43. القس شعيا غانم الأنطوني 1953
44. الأب أنطوان دكاش الأنطوني 1957-1958-1961
45. الأب بولس دحدح الأنطوني 1960
46. الأب يوحنا الحبيب صادر الأنطوني 1962-1965

47. الأب فرنسيس واكيم الأنطوني 1966
 48. الأب إميل أبي حبيب الأنطوني 1967-1972
 49. الأب لويس الرهبان الأنطوني 1971
 50. الخوري أنطوان الجميل 1971
 51. الخوري يوسف العلم 1972-1973
 52. الخوري يوسف الخوري 1975-1976
 53. الخوري نجيب ابو جودة 1976 إلى اليوم.
 54. الخوري شكرالله ابو جودة 1978-1979-1980
 55. الخوري يوسف صدقة 1979
 56. الخوري ناصر الجميل 1992 إلى 2000 ومن 2005 إلى اليوم
 57. الخوري فيليب العلم 2001-2004
 58. الخوري سمير شبلي 2004-2005
 59. الخوري ريشار ابو موسى 2005

تمثال مارت تقلا في ساحة الكنيسة

يبلغ ارتفاعه ثلاثة أمتار بالإضافة إلى
 أسد جاثم عند قدميها وأفعى مشرّبة، من صنع
 الفنان الياس صعب من بلدة السهلة. وقد زُيّر
 بأحواض الزهور في حديقة صغيرة نموذجية
 تتوسطها نافورة مياه تشكل امتداداً لساحة
 الكنيسة. وفي هذه الساحة، ملتقى الشبيبة،
 تعود الأهالي ولجنة الوقف ونادي التوعية
 والانطلاق القيام بمهرجانات بمناسبة عيد
 القديسة تقلا، عيد الضيعة، يختتمون به



إثنان من أبناء المسقى دخلا فيما مضى في الرهبنة اللبنانية المارونية هما:

- ١ - لورنسيوس (لا ذكر لعائلته)، أبرز نذوره في ٢٢ آب ١٧٧٤، في دير مار أنطونيوس - قزحيّا، بعمر ١٩ سنة.
- ٢ - فرنسيس (لا ذكر لعائلته)، أبرز نذوره في ٢٦ حزيران ١٧٩٦، في دير سيّدة طاميش؛ سيم كاهنا في ٥ شباط ١٨٠٣ وتوفي في ١١ نيسان ١٨٢٥، في دير طاميش نفسه.

ب - الرهبان الأنطونيون

كان لرهبة مار إشعيا حصّة الأسد من الدعوات المسقاوية. لقد بلغ عددها ١٧ دعوة بين كاهن وأخ. والمعروف عن الرهبنة الأنطونية أنها لم تتوان هي بدورها عن الخدمة الكهنوتية لرعية مار تقلا التي كانت "محسوبة" عليها. أمّا الرهبان المسقاويون فلقد توزّعوا في مختلف أديارها التي تحوي إلى الآن رفاتهم الطاهرة.

٣ - الأب جبرائيل أبو نعمة ، توفي في ٢٥ تشرين الأول ١٧٧٨، في دير مار يوحنا القلعة.

٤ - الأب صرابييون، توفي في ٥ نيسان ١٧٨٨، في دير مار جرجس - عوكر.

٥ - الأخ مكسيموس الياس أبو جودة، توفي في ٥ أيلول ١٧٩٤، دير مار سرقيس - إهدن.

٦ - الأب صرابييون سمعان، توفي في ١٠ أيلول ١٨١٦، في دير مار إشعيا - برمانا.

٧ - الأب موسى أبو نعمة، في سنة ١٨١٩، في دير مار عبدا المشمر.

٨ - الأخ وهبه رزق الله أبو جودة، توفي في سنة ١٨٢٦ في دير مار إشعيا.

٩ - الأخ سلوانس أبو جودة، توفي في ١٦ آذار ١٨٣٨، في دير مار إشعيا - برمانا. وهو يعدّ من بين النساخ الموارنة وقد نسخ للمطران سمعان عوّد، كتاب أخبار روحية، في دير مار الياس - غزير، في ١٠ تمّوز ١٧٨٥، ٢٦٦ صفحة، كرشوني. وكان يوجد منه نسخة وحيدة عند كاهن قاع الريم. هذا الخطوط موجود في جبيل، دير سيّدة المعونات، عدد ١٠٤.

١٠ - الأخ يواصاف أبو جودة، توفي في دير مار عبدا المشمر، في ١٠ كانون الأول ١٨٣٨.

١١ - الأب أرساتيوس جبرائيل أبو جودة، توفي في دير مار إشعيا - برمانا، في ٢ كانون الثاني ١٨٤٠.

١٢ - الأخ سليمان بن جبرائيل أبو جودة، توفي في سنة ١٨٤٣، في دير مار جرجس - عوكر.

١٣ - الأخ أركاديوس بن قسطنطين بو نعمة، توفّي في ٥ كانون الأول ١٨٤٥، في دير مار يوحنا القلعة - بيت مري.

١٤ - الأب آصاف بن رزق سعد أبو جوده، توفّي في ١٨ كانون الأول ١٨٤٧ في دير مار إشعيا - برمانا.

١٥ - الأب أنطونيوس عبدالله القصير، توفّي سنة ١٨٦١.

١٦ - الأخ ميخائيل جوده مسقاوي، توفّي في ٢ تشرين الثاني ١٨٧٢، في دير مار ضوميط - روميه.

١٧ - الأب سلوانس جوده، توفّي في ٢٣ نيسان ١٨٩٠، في دير مار ضوميط - روميه.

وهو الأخير في لائحة الرهبان الأنطونيين.

ج - كهنة رعية مار تقلا - المسقى، منذ سنة ١٨٣٥ إلى اليوم وكلّ أسماء الكهنة الذين قاموا أقله بمنح سرّ المعمودية في كنيستها :

١٨ - الخوري طانيوس (?) من ١٨٣٥ إلى سنة ١٨٦٣. ولقد منح سرّ المعمودية طوال هذه المدة إلى ٤٢ طفل وطفلة. ولقد ورد في السجل سنة ١٨٦٠ ما يلي : "أنا الخوري طانيوس عمّدت سركيس ابن فارس غصن، عرابه بشاره الخوري، عرابته حرمة الياس بو نادر، في ١ آذار ١٨٦٠".

١٩ - القس يوحنا غزيري، سنة ١٨٦٥.

٢٠ - القس الياس جوده أنطونيائي، ١٨٦٦-١٨٦٧. (لم يرد اسمه في لائحة الرهبان الأنطونيين، المار ذكرها. فاقترضى التتويه).

٢١ - الخوري يوسف المسقى، ١٨٦٧-١٨٦٨.

٢٢ - القس واكيم غزيري أنطونيائي، ١٨٦٧-١٨٧٠. "أنا القس واكيم عمّدت ابنة الخوري يوسف المسقى، عرابها الياس ابن السعد من بحالا، عرابتها حرمة حنا عازار من الغابي. قد تمّ عمادها في كنيسة القديسة مار تقلا في ١٠ من شهر تمّوز ١٨٦٧".

٢٣ - القس بولس عمّد في شهر تمّوز ١٨٦٠ ابن يوسف بشاره الخوري من المسقا، عرّابه يوسف سمعان من الزلقا، عرّابته حرمة الياس شبلي من القنّابه. قد تمّ عماده في دير القديس مار عبدا في الأول من شهر تمّوز ١٨٦٠.

٢٤ - الخوري أنطونيوس جوده، خادم العيون، ١٨٧٠-١٨٧١.

٢٥ - القس يوحنا غزيري أنطونياني، برك إكليل حنا الخوري على إبنه الياس زيتون من بيت شباب، سنة ١٨٦٥.

٢٦ - القس بطرس بسلوقيّتي، برك إكليل نادر بن جرجس بن نادر من المسقا على نخله إبنه موسى طانيوس من بقنايا سنة ١٨٦٦، كما برك أيضا إكليل عقل بن فارس غصن على رفقا إبنه جرجس بن نادر، في ٨ نيسان ١٨٦٦.

٢٧ - القس برنردوس بحنسي أنطونياني، ١٨٨٧.

٢٨ - القس جناديوس قرنة شهبان أنطونياني، (توفي في باب مارع - البقاع، في أول تشرين الثاني سنة ١٩٢٣) عمّد أمين ابن بشاره أيّوب الخوري من المسقا وكان عرّابه جرجس منصور من بقنايا وعرّابته امرأة أخيه سنة ١٨٨٢. ولقد ورد اسمه أيضا كخادم لرعيّة مار تقلا في سنة ١٨٩٢، و ١٨٩٥، و ١٩٠١ و ١٩٠٧.

٢٩ - الخوري جرجس المجبّر، ورد اسمه سنة ١٨٩٦، ١٩٢٠، ١٩٢٤...

٣٠ - القس سراييون، ورد ذكره سنة ١٩٢٤.

٣١ - القس أنطونيوس صقر اللبناي، ورد ذكره سنة ١٩٢٤.

٣٢ - القس نعمة الله شقير الأنطوني، ورد ذكره سنة ١٩١١.

٣٣ - الأب شكرالله عون الأنطوني، ورد اسمه سنة ١٩١٤.

٣٤ - الأب برنردوس قرنة الحمراء الأنطوني، سنة ١٩١٤-١٩١٥.

٣٥ - القس أنطون الإهدني الأنطوني، سنة ١٩١٨.

٣٦ - القس أرسانيوس الملاح الأنطوني، ١٩١٨.

- ٣٧ - القس زكريّا قرنة الحمراء، ١٩٢٠.
- ٣٨ - القس يوسف الأرصوني الأنطوني، ورد ذكره سنة ١٩٢١، ١٩٣٠، ١٩٣١، ١٩٣٦، ١٩٣٧.
- ٣٩ - القس سراييون، سنة ١٩٢١-١٩٢٤.
- ٤٠ - القس يوسف الحائك، سنة ١٩٢٥.
- ٤١ - المونسنيور نعمة الله أبو جودة، سنة ١٩٢٦.
- ٤٢ - الخوري الياس أبو جودة، سنة ١٩٢٩.
- ٤٣ - القس شعيا الأرصوني الأنطوني، ١٩٣٠.
- ٤٤ - القس يوسف نادر الأنطوني، سنة ١٩٣١.
- ٤٥ - الخوري طوبيا الأشقر، ورد اسمه في سنة ١٩٣٥، ١٩٣٦، ١٩٣٨، ١٩٥٠.
- ٤٦ - الخوري بطرس عطية، سنة ١٩٣٩.
- ٤٧ - الخوري سمعان رشد، ١٩٤٠.
- ٤٨ - القس بولس إبي جودة الراهب اللبناني، ورد ذكره سنة ١٩٤٠، ١٩٥١، ١٩٥٤.
- ٤٩ - الخوري بطرس أبي جودة، ورد اسمه سنة ١٩٣٦، ١٩٣٨، ١٩٤٢، ١٩٤٤، ١٩٥١، ١٩٥٢، ١٩٥٦، ١٩٥٩، ١٩٦٧، ١٩٧١، ١٩٧٨.
- ٥٠ - الأب الياس الأشقر الأنطوني، سنة ١٩٤٣.
- ٥١ - الخوري فرنسيس الناكوزي، سنة ١٩٤٣.
- ٥٢ - الخوري نعمة الله الأسمر، ١٩٤٤.
- ٥٣ - الخوري يوحنا أبو جودة، ورد اسمه ابتداءً من سنة ١٩٣١، ١٩٣٢، ١٩٤٤، ١٩٥١، ١٩٥٣، ١٩٥٥، ١٩٦٥، ١٩٦٩، ١٩٧٨ ومن سنة ١٩٧٩ إلى اليوم.

- ٥٤ - الخوري يوسف خيرالله، ١٩٤٧-١٩٤٨.
- ٥٥ - الخوري شكرالله نصّار، ١٩٥٠.
- ٥٦ - الأب مارون حريقة الأنطوني، ١٩٦٧.
- ٥٧ - الخوري الياس الخوري، ١٩٥٢.
- ٥٨ - القس طانيوس عون الأنطوني، ورد اسمه سنة ١٩٥٢، ١٩٥٤-١٩٧٠.
- ٥٩ - الأب نعمة الله سعادة الأنطوني، سنة ١٩٥٣.
- ٦٠ - القس شعيا غاتم الأنطوني، ١٩٥٣.
- ٦١ - الأب أنطوان دكّاش الأنطوني، ١٩٥٧، ١٩٥٨، ١٩٦١.
- ٦٢ - الأب بولس دحدح الأنطوني، ١٩٦٠.
- ٦٣ - الأب يوحنا الحبيب صادر الأنطوني، ١٩٦٢، ١٩٦٥.
- ٦٤ - الأب فرنسيس واكيم الأنطوني، ١٩٦٦.
- ٦٥ - الأب إميل أبي حبيب الأنطوني، ١٩٦٧-١٩٧٢.
- ٦٦ - الأب لويس الرهبان الأنطوني، سنة ١٩٧١.
- ٦٧ - الخوري أنطوان الجميل، ١٩٧١.
- ٦٨ - الخوري يوسف العلم، ١٩٧٢-١٩٧٣.
- ٦٩ - الخوري يوسف الخوري، ١٩٧٥-١٩٧٦.
- ٧٠ - الخوري نجيب أبو جودة، ١٩٧٦ إلى اليوم.
- ٧١ - الخوري شكرالله أبو جودة، ١٩٧٨، ١٩٧٩، ١٩٨٠.
- ٧٢ - الخوري يوسف صدقة، ١٩٧٩.
- ٧٣ - الخوري ناصر الجميل، منذ سنة ١٩٩٢ إلى اليوم. وفيما يلي، سأورد بعض المقاطع من مذكراتي، غير المنشورة، في رعية مار تقلا. "باشرت في خدمة رعية مار تقلا - المسقى في الأحد الأوّل من أيلول ١٩٩٢، بعدما قضيت ست سنوات وشهرين في رعية مار إشعيا - برمانا. في القداس الأوّل، لم تمتلئ الكنيسة، على صغرها. في القداس الثاني، الأحد التالي، تحسّن الوضع. وفي القداس الثالث، تضاعف عدد المقدّسين. وبعد القداس الثالث، اجتمعت بسيدات الأخويّة وتناولنا الحديث حول "الأسرار في الكنيسة".

EPILOGUE

Remember them – The Scenes, the people, the family.

It is the surest form of immortality. It is also what makes our lives bearable and worth living. Memory, said St Augustine, is the presence of the past.

“Kamshi min trab el habayeb, bteswa dahab el 3alam kellou.”

Those people that filled our youth. Those views that filled our eyes. Remember them, so you can see your life in perspective. Remember them so they will also remember you and keep your memory alive. Smile at their sight. Laugh at their jokes & funnies. Cry at their sorrows. Dance at their weddings, and console them in their Funerals.

But most of all, Remember!

*“May love and laughter light your days,
and warm your heart and home.
May good and faithful friends be yours,
wherever you may roam.
May peace and plenty bless your world
with joy that long endures.
May all life's passing seasons
bring the best to you and yours!”*



SUGGESTED READINGS & RESOURCES

Aboujaoude sites:

- <https://www.facebook.com/AJFamilyReunion> for US NJ Reunion
- http://ghabe.50megs.com/rich_text.html for Ghabe site
- Mart Taqla , Ghabe, and Maska pages on Facebook
- <http://aboujaoudefamily.org/> for AJ family site
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/119978041366194/> ;
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/207788899243547/> AJ Family in Lebanon and Abroad
- Abujawdeh.com , our own family site
- <https://picasaweb.google.com/114916810284137220079?fgl=true&pli=1>
- <https://plus.google.com/photos/103411264699622937056/albums?banner=pwa&gpsrc=pwr1#photos/103411264699622937056/albums?banner=pwa&gpsrc=pwr1>
- Elie Bishara's Photo Treasures <https://www.flickr.com/photos/eliedata/>

Specific References:

- Father Boulos Aboujaoude, "Al Aboujaoude"
- ILFA Magazine, Aboujaoude family periodical
- Bohemond I, Prince of Antioch, by Ralph Bailey Yewdale
- <http://www.bhsosa.net/index.aspx> Brummana High School Old Scholars Association
- "The Aboujaoudes – Origins", Sam S. Abujawdeh
<http://archive.org/details/Aboujaoudes-Origins>



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sam S. Abujawdeh was born in Lebanon in 1955. He is a native of Maska, El Metn. He is the son of Sami Fadlallah Ibrahim Fares Ghosn Abujawdeh and Minerva Khatrar Salim Yousef Naufal Abujawdeh.

After graduating from Brummana High School, and a short stint at the American University of Beirut, he left to the US for studies in Electrical and Nuclear Engineering at Syracuse University & the University of Cincinnati.

Sam has worked at General Electric, AT&T, and other companies in the US and worldwide, taking an early retirement in 2001 as regional Vice President of Lucent Technologies in Middle East & Africa. He currently contracts with AT&T and other companies in New Jersey, USA, where he lives with his wife and four Children.

